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VOTE! READERS' CHOICE AWARDS PAGE 38



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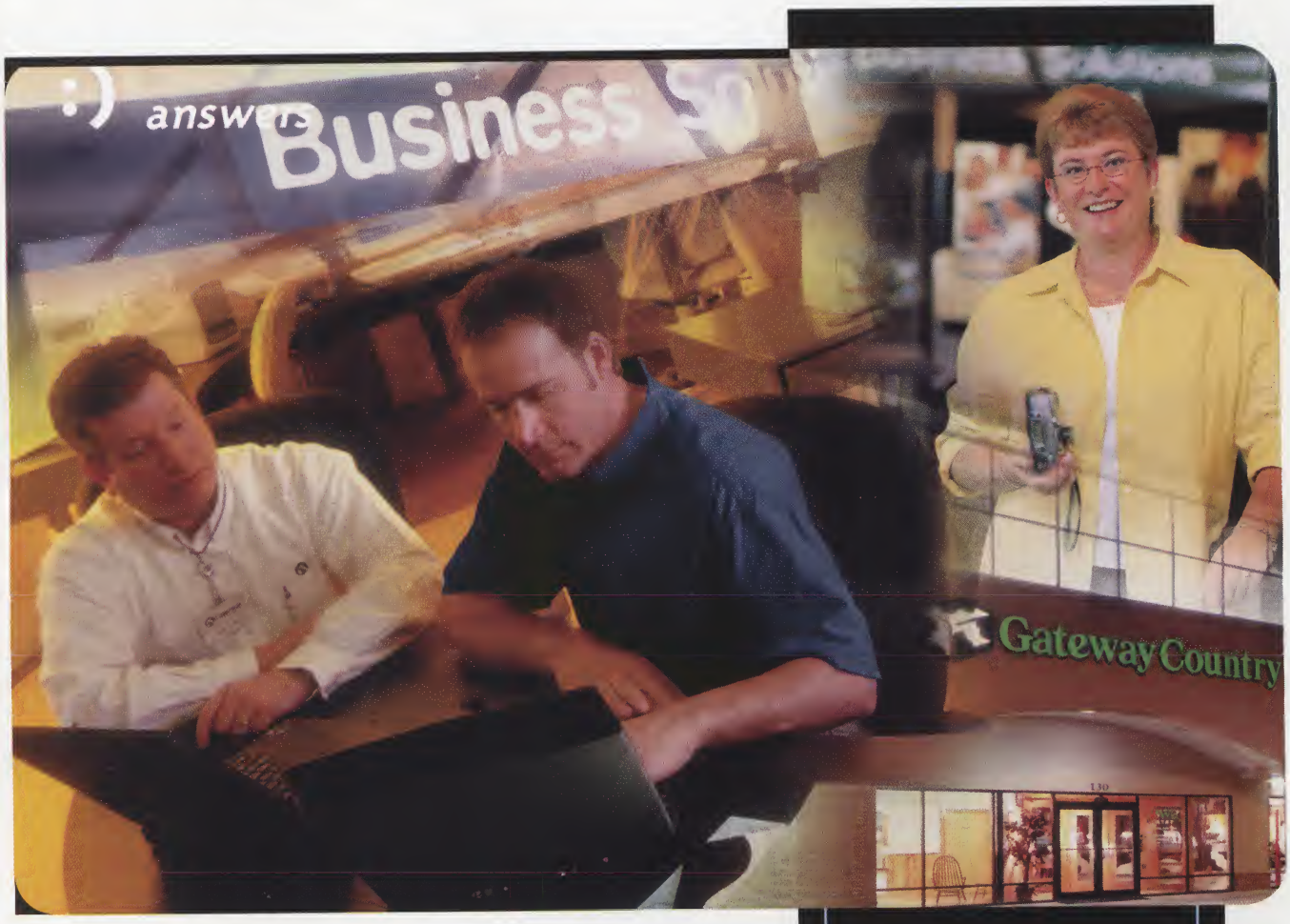
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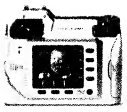
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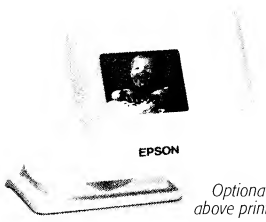
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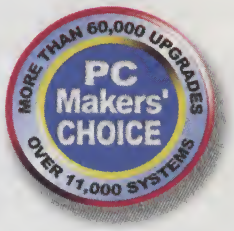
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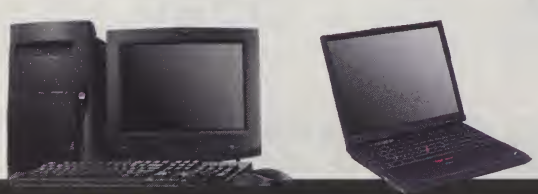
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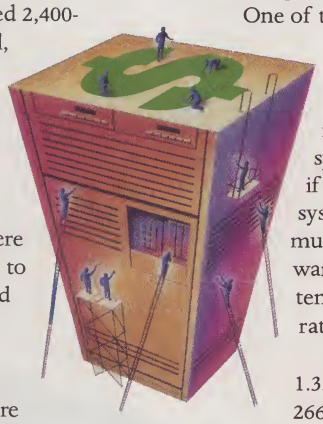
Canon KNOW HOW™

JANICE CHEN



Build Your Own and Save

When I began covering the PC industry more than 10 years ago, Windows 3.0 was still vaporware and the writers and editors of *Computer Shopper* were composing articles with XyWrite. We used 2,400-baud modems with MCI Mail, and I had a speedy 25MHz 386SX on my desk. Many of our readers were die-hard techies who had cut their teeth on kit-built systems (remember the Altair?), and while "inexpensive" clones were selling big, quite a few turned to our magazine to buy parts and assemble their own PCs.



A lot has changed in the tech market since then. Consolidation among hardware vendors has resulted in fewer players, and many of the old clone makers have gone out of business. And, of course, many merchants have taken their wares to the Web, where updated pricing and availability are just a click away. What hasn't changed is that *Computer Shopper* is still here to help you get the most for your money. It's a different world you're shopping in, but we're keeping you up to date.



Arguably the biggest factor affecting how we buy technology today is the ever-dropping price of the desktop PC. New systems are priced so low that it's hard to get a better deal by assembling one from scratch. With some help from us (and a little perseverance), though, you can shop shrewdly for components and save.

We set out to discover how much it would cost to build our own Pentium III- and Athlon-based systems. By taking advantage of promotional deals, ads posted on Usenet, coupons and rebates, Web-based clearance and auction sites, and other Net specials, we were able to save hundreds of dollars. Turn to our cover story "Putting the *Pieces Together (for Savings)*" on p. 138 to see how we configured systems that cost a third less than prebuilt PCs from top vendors. And even if you're not up for rolling your own, our tips can help you save on upgrade components.

One of the benefits of building your own PC is that you can pick exactly the parts you want and tweak components to maximize performance. And speaking of maximum power, if you're looking for a prebuilt system that squeezes the most muscle from its processor, you'll want to consider an Athlon system equipped with double-data-rate (DDR) SDRAM.

By pairing 1.2GHz and 1.33GHz processors with 266MHz DDR SDRAM (which runs twice as fast as conventional SDRAM), these new Athlons can match and even surpass 1.5GHz Pentium 4 systems in both business-app and 3D performance. Plus, they often cost hundreds of dollars less than comparably configured Pentium 4s. We tested five Athlon systems with DDR SDRAM and report back on p. 100.

Even if you're not in the market for a PC, we still have plenty in store for you. Our Shopper's Guide to personal printers (p. 120), for example, will help you pinpoint the technology that best suits your usage patterns. Whether you're a photo hobbyist, small-office manager, or graphics professional, we'll help you find the right printer at the right price.

And finally, for advice on what to do with all your new (and old) technology purchases, don't miss the Help & How-To section. This month, our Tune-Up article steps you through building your own Web site (p. 196), Alice and Bill go beyond FireWire (p. 192), and Al Poor demystifies the Windows swap file (p. 200).

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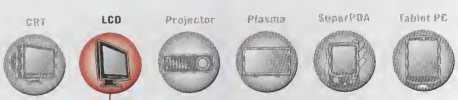
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FEEDBACK FORUM

HOBBYISTS BEWARE!

I was just reading the May issue of *Computer Shopper* and came across John Blackford's reference to Microsoft software and "locked" configurations (p. 40). Apparently, Office XP logs the hardware configuration upon registration and won't work in another configuration. (At least that's the way I read it.)

Blackford indicates this is Microsoft's move toward subscription-based software. Although this may be a good thing for stockholders—and even for the ordinary user—it's not for hobbyists like me. I may try a different piece of hardware or swap stuff around among my five working machines at least once a month. It sure wouldn't be much fun if I had to "buy" an upgrade for each machine each time. Buying four copies of Windows 98 was enough!

I'm concerned my favorite pastime may be on the verge of extinction.

P.S. to "Hard Edge": Do you think Microsoft might allow a "geek" subscription? Alice may have some useful suggestions as to how that kind of thing might be implemented (retinal scan, palm print, or the like).

T. VINCENT


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JOHN BLACKFORD

In Search of... A Tech-Stock Upside

Despite the market crash, technology is the future.

DON'T LAUGH. ALL THOSE INTERNET STARTUPS *DID* HAVE a business plan: the noble ideal of money for nothing. And it worked! Stocks kept rising as venture capital poured in, to the point that some analysts started to believe it *all could last.*

After the bubble burst, though, tech stocks couldn't buy a break. Now, if you were to ask the man in the street about dot-com venture capital, he would probably say, "What capital?" But there is investment money out there, though the watchwords today for any dot-com to have a prayer of getting funded are profitability and sound business planning.

WELCOME TO THE BIG GUYS

Maybe that's unfortunate. Not only was the earlier illusion more fun, but given the continuing need for vast investments for research, expansion, and infrastructure upgrades, well-capitalized companies must merge and consolidate to be able to meet the outlays required. Second verdict: That's right, a relatively small group of conglomerates will rule the Web: manufacturers, telecoms, software providers, and content creators. On the bright side, you'll access a mind-boggling array of entertainments, services, and productivity tools, delivered on dozens of devices.

Copyrighted material will happily be protected, despite leakage from illicit file-sharing services and systematic content piracy overseas. Generally, though, you'll pay for copyrighted content and services by subscription.

In fact, once the basic hardware is perfected and the necessary billions invested in high-speed links, content by subscription will be a dominant source of revenue for the tech conglomerates. We're seeing this trend already as PCs become less loaded, paid for by after-sale services. And we may yet see the day when most PCs and wireless phones/PDAs cost nominal sums, subsidized by multiyear subscriptions.

Don't say you wouldn't pay to have an efficient, tightly integrated Internet experience tailored to your particular needs and preferences. Add in feeds of music, movies, books, and games, and you might be willing to shell out a hefty sum, especially if the hardware cost were minimal.

PCs BEYOND THE BOX

In the PC industry, Compaq, IBM, and HP already employ "beyond-the-box" elements to enhance their business. They expect revenue from such back-end hardware and services to account for a growing share of their profits.

Dell and Gateway, on the other hand, have been more closely tied to the PC itself. Dell has begun to pick up PC market share with aggressive price cutting, but to compensate, the company must increase market share among businesses, especially with sales of servers and back-end services. Gateway, despite efforts to extend its relationship with customers beyond the initial sale, is more closely tied to the PC as the core of its business. Ted Waitt's recent return as CEO suggests a possible change of emphasis, but it remains to be seen which way he'll go.

On the software side, Microsoft gains much of its revenue from its Office suites: 95, 97, 2000, and now XP. It will need a steady stream of cash from them to make the transition to subscription-based software and services. In fact, it's already taken the first step with Office XP, whose "product activation" technology is in fact locking technology that fixes the software installation to a particular hardware configuration. With that done, Microsoft can sell or rent software and upgrades with much less fear of illegal copying.

DOT-COM SURVIVORS

Just as PC vendors are looking for revenue beyond the box, so the remaining dot-com players must find ways to pay as they go. The most promising options are, first, to get acquired by a larger company willing to retain the dot-com's services in a larger bundle rented to consumers or businesses, or, second, to find ways to generate revenue sufficient to meet ongoing expenses and grow incrementally.

The enduring legacy of the dot-com startups may well be ant Napster, targeted by copyright holders everywhere. But eBay, which has taken the lowly swap meet online and around the globe, has been profitable from the beginning, and ad management is working to extend service to businesses, helping them liquidate old equipment direct to consumers.

John_blackford@dnet.com

MAY 2001 • Computer Shopper

According to Microsoft, basic changes to a machine's configuration, such as reformatting a hard drive or swapping a graphics card, won't affect XP. Larger changes may require a call to a toll-free number for a new activation code. —Ed.

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MY DISAPPEARING *SHOPPER*

Having read *Computer Shopper* for more than half a decade, I have to ask: Where did all the content go? It used to take hours to pore through it all, and you always felt there was something else there, if you just felt like looking for it.

Granted, I still like what content you have left. I always flip straight to "The Hard Edge" first, and Dvorak and Poor usually offer me something interesting. But what really made you different (and special) was more than just the sheer size of the book; it was the scathing reviews of bad equipment. Thankfully, they're still there, as evidenced by the April HP multifunction fax/printer/scanner review ("The Multifunction Misses Its Cue," p. 68).

I must also add that the magazine has helped me (essentially a small-business office manager and IT department head) converse intelligently. I look like a pro to my boss, who has never heard of IDE, DSL, Unix, firewalls, and so on. He thinks I've been going to night school, when actually, I've just been reading *Shopper.*

B.J. WORSHAM

We've received a lot of positive feedback about our new format and size, but a few readers have expressed concern about the declining number of advertisements. This results from ongoing consolidation in the PC market, which has meant fewer players and therefore fewer advertisers. Although we have fewer ads, we now print more editorial pages in proportion to advertisements. We hope you'll continue reading—we think you'll like what you see. —Ed.

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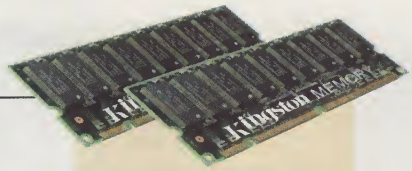
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MICROSOFT'S NEW OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS



ILLUSTRATION BY BILL RIESER

Microsoft believes experience should be your guide—or XPerience, anyway. Its forthcoming Windows XP operating system aims to apply a simple design to the desktop landscape.

Windows XP, in Home and Professional versions, is built on the stable core of Windows 2000. And that, Microsoft stresses, makes it an entirely new version of the OS for home users, who are *generally familiar* with the more crash-prone Windows 95/98/Me family.

"XP will be a revolution in the consumer PC space," says Brian Valentine, senior vice president of Microsoft's Windows division. "It's got a good foundation, a cool user interface, and great functionality."

The OS targets six user experiences: music and video, photography, connectivity, mobility, communications, and help and support. It's more task-oriented than previous releases and "brings to the top" tasks that formerly required a right-click to accomplish, says Mark Croft, product manager.

Additionally, XP's look is smart and clean. The welcome screen, for instance, enables users to set up individual profiles identified by a thumbnail photo. The Start menu uses a two-pane approach to navigation. The left side is task-based, displaying the top two apps that just about everyone uses: e-mail and Web browsing. The right side takes a more content-centric tack, displaying icons for folders like My Pictures and My Documents.

However, Microsoft has announced that XP will not include native support for the USB 2.0 and Bluetooth standards, a decision that has rankled many.

Minimum requirements for XP are a 300MHz Pentium II (or compatible) processor and at least 64MB of RAM (with 128MB recommended). Microsoft plans to ship XP on October 25.

And if you don't like the experience? Croft says Microsoft has included an uninstaller that allows upgraders to roll back the system to its previous state. *—Rik Fairlie*

Flight Sites Up In the Air

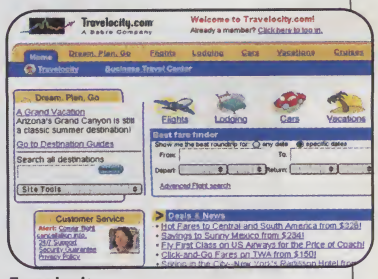
Eyebrows rose (and the stock prices of **Expedia** and **Travelocity** fell) when **Northwest Airlines** and its alliance partner **KLM Royal Dutch Airlines** announced they would stop paying commissions to online travel agencies in early March. Is this the beginning of a crisis for online providers?

Nah, say industry observers.

"I think we're going to see a move away from paying straight commission," says Kate Rice, analyst with PhoCusWright, a research company specializing in online travel. "We'll see online sites negotiating with airlines to get Net fares or specially priced fares, which they can add a profit to and still offer at a very attractive price."

Rice doesn't believe that customers will pay service fees. She predicts, however, that sites will offer perks, such as discounts and specially targeted travel packages, in exchange for an annual fee.

Travelocity, which recently posted its first quarterly profit, apparently isn't too worried about airline commissions. Advertising revenue and nonair offerings, such as hotels, cars, and cruises, total nearly half of the company's earnings. "It's too early to tell whether [cutting commissions] will become a trend," says Travelocity spokesman Al Comeaux.



Travelocity

Christina Kozloff, Expedia product manager, agrees. "Only one airline has cut commissions. Expedia has reached an agreement with Northwest, so there will be no change, visible or invisible, to the consumer." *—Gwen Moran*

VALUE LINE INTERNAL EIDE HARD DRIVES

A sampling of UltraATA/100 drives found on *computershopper.com*

Western Digital Protégé WD100EB $84
10GB capacity, 12ms average seek time, 5,400rpm spin rate, $8.35 per gigabyte

Maxtor DiamondMax Plus 40 53073H6 $136
30GB capacity, 9ms average seek time, 7,200rpm spin rate, $4.53 per gigabyte

IBM Deskstar 75GXP DTLA-307060 $217
60GB capacity, 8.5ms average seek time, 7,200rpm spin rate, $3.61 per gigabyte

$50 | $100 | $150 | $200 | $250


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Fujitsu MPG33204AH $106
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Seagate Barracuda ATA III ST340824A $154
40GB capacity, 8.9ms average seek time, 7,200rpm spin rate, $3.85 per gigabyte

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R505 SERIES NOTEBOOK

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Intel® 815 EM integrated graphics chip
10Base-T/100Base-TX integrated Ethernet port
Integrated V.90 modem
Sony MagicGate™ Memory Stick® media slot
i.LINK® (IEEE 1394) S400 interface[1]
3.75 lbs. light, about 1" thin
Windows® 2000 Professional

PCG-R505TEK
Intel® Pentium® III processor 750 MHz[2]
15.0 GB[3] hard drive
128 MB SDRAM (expandable to 320 MB)
$2,399

PCG-R505TSK
Intel® Pentium® III processor 850 MHz[2]
20.0 GB[3] hard drive
128 MB SDRAM (expandable to 384 MB)
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Parallel port
VGA Out port
i.LINK port
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2 USB ports

PCGA-DSD5
DVD Drive
$399

PCGA-DSM5
CD-RW/DVD Combo Drive
$599

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NET NOW

A Net Divided

Americans have achieved progress in gaining access to the Internet, but the digital world is still divided. A recent report by the Washington, D.C.-based **Pew Internet & American Life Project** states that 56 percent of American adults had Internet access at the end of 2000, up from 47 percent in June of last year. But despite these gains, almost half of the country remains without access.

"There has been continuing growth for women, those who have less education, and those in lower income brackets, but they still have a lot of ground to make up," says Susannah Fox, director of research for Pew.



Women are reaching across the digital divide.

According to the report, only 38 percent of Americans in households earning less than $30,000 a year have Net access, while 82 percent of those in households taking in $75,000 or more are online.

In addition, Americans aged 65 and older lag behind in technology adoption and make up a "gray gap." Only 15 percent in this age group have Net access, while 75 percent between the ages of 18 and 29 are online.

Location is also a factor. The report shows that 57 percent of Americans living in rural areas are not connected to the Net, compared with 47 percent of those in urban areas and 46 percent in the suburbs.

Among minorities, Pew reports that 43 percent of African Americans and 47 percent of Hispanics are online, compared with 57 percent of whites.

To help bridge that technology gap, **IBM** has established an alliance with the **Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)**. The company will offer tailored systems at reduced prices to students, faculty, and staff members of HACU institutions.

"The digital divide is not a technology problem, but an education problem," says Enrique Gomez, IBM's director of development for retail-store solutions.

In addition, using donated software from **Adobe Systems, Autodesk,** and **Macromedia,** and systems from **Hewlett-Packard, Intel's** Computer Clubhouse Network ***(www.computerclubhouse.org)*** provides an environment for young people in low-income areas to gain access to technology.

—Brian T. Horowitz

Congressional Oversight?

As Independence Day approaches, politically inclined citizens may have thoughts of contacting their congressional representatives. There was a time when a concerned constituent could compose a letter to a member of Congress or a senator and expect a timely, maybe even handwritten, response.

That was in the days of pen and ink, however. A study by the **Congress Online Project** ***(www.congressonlineproject.org/email)*** shows that as e-mail becomes increasingly prevalent, congressional in-boxes are virtually overflowing. For instance, the House of Representatives received almost 48 million messages in 2000. Most of this e-mail goes unanswered and unread, however. What's a patriot to do?

Well, pen and ink may still work best. David Rapp, executive editor of **Congressional Quarterly,** says members of Congress pay more attention to *snail mail than e-mail*. The reason? Much of the e-mail that hits congressional in-boxes comes not from constituents, but from advocacy groups, lobbyists, and citizens outside a representative's district, all sending mass e-mail—in other words, spam. Even though filtering technologies could help, most congressional offices have yet to hire the technology experts to maintain and update the software. Snail mail allows representatives to verify that letters have been sent by constituents.

But Congress hasn't been absolutely remiss in responding to new technologies. Congressional Web sites are easily located through ***www.house.gov*** or ***www.senate.gov,*** and most pages provide both an e-mail link and a snail-mail address.



The Capitol—of Spamville, U.S.A.?

—Adam Fisher

ADDRESSING YOUR ISSUES

Internet users are becoming increasingly dissatisfied with impersonal e-mail addresses. Who wants to present themselves to the digital world as JQPublic872@HugeISP.com? Now you have a choice: Hundreds of free e-mail services offer distinctive or personalized e-mail addresses.

Unlike free services of the past, you can find more than just Web-based e-mail service. POP3, IMAP, and forwarding accounts are also available.

Some of these accounts offer up to 100MB of e-mail storage. "That's an amount users would have practically killed for a couple of years ago," says Edwin Hayward, creator of **EmailAddresses.com,** a comprehensive directory of more than 1,100 services.

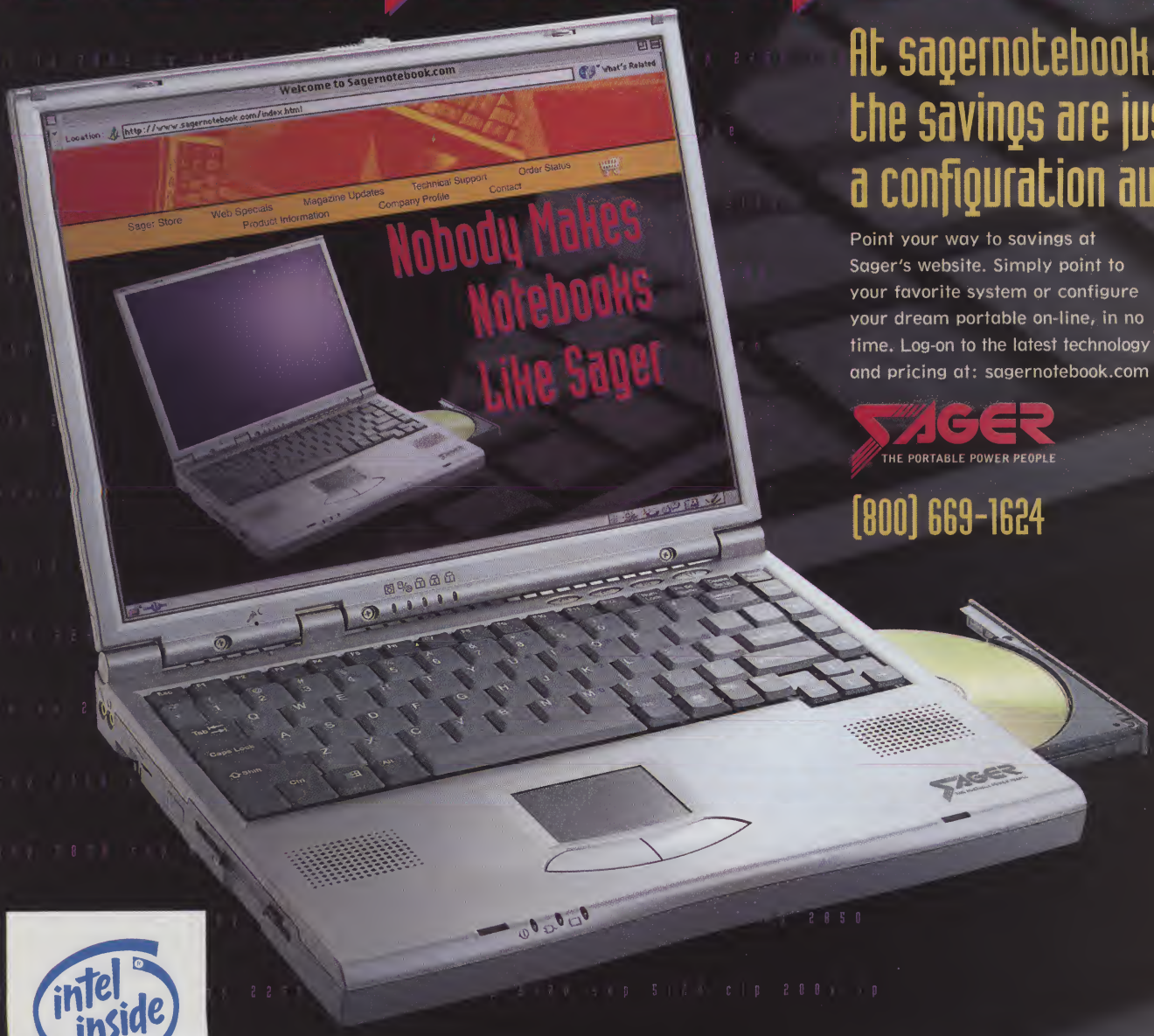
He warns users to beware of fly-by-night operations. "Of the services listed on my site, perhaps one-third have survived since the site opened three years ago," Hayward says.

Some providers let you select from thousands of eclectic domains. For one that includes your own name, try **FirstName.com** ***(www.firstname.com)*** or **Nameplanet.com** ***(www.nameplanet.com)***. **WildEmail.com** ***(www.wildemail.com)*** can identify you as NascarFanatic.com or TougherThanYou.com, while **MailSpace** ***(www.mailspace.com)*** has CowboyFanMail.com and BigAppleMail.com. Sign up with **4Anything.com** ***(www.4anything.com)*** to publicize your interests with an address like 4MountainBikes.com. You can fly your state colors with a MailAlaska.com address from **Mailstates** ***(www.mailstates.com)***. The official Elvis Presley Web site ***(www.elvis.com)*** even offers addresses at Elvis.com.

—Kevin Shay

SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 34

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NP8560 Series

NP2850 Series



Sager's NP8560 Desktop Replacement comes loaded with the latest, cutting-edge technology in processing for a notebook. This new capability increases bandwidth from 100MHz to 133MHz and that translates into ultra-fast speed for memory intensive applications. As well, these notebooks come complete with upgraded features normally found only in a desktop computer including a huge 15.0" SXGA+ Active Matrix Display. Upgrade to the NP8560 Series for tomorrow's portable speed, built for you today.

Sager presents the ultimate notebook for viewing and graphics, under 7.1 pounds and only 1.5" thin! The NP2850 Series offers speed and agility for handling demanding graphics applications normally found only in a desktop. With a 15.0" XGA Active Matrix Display, you can't ask for better viewing size or capability in a portable computer. As for graphics, the NP2850 Series comes complete with a 2X AGP Chipset and a 3D Graphics Accelerator for blazing speed.

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- 15.0" SXGA+ Active Matrix Display
- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 1.0GHz
- 16MB Video Memory
- 256MB 133MHz SDRAM
- 30.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- Modular 8X Max. DVD-ROM[2] and 4X4X20 Max. CD-RW Drive[3](both included)
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 15-Cell 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- 102-Key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad
- IEEE-1394 Port
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with opt. Iomega® Zip Drive or 2nd HDD
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port & 1 Video-In Port
- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 9.5 lbs with Battery
- 14.0"w x 11.0"d x 2.2"h
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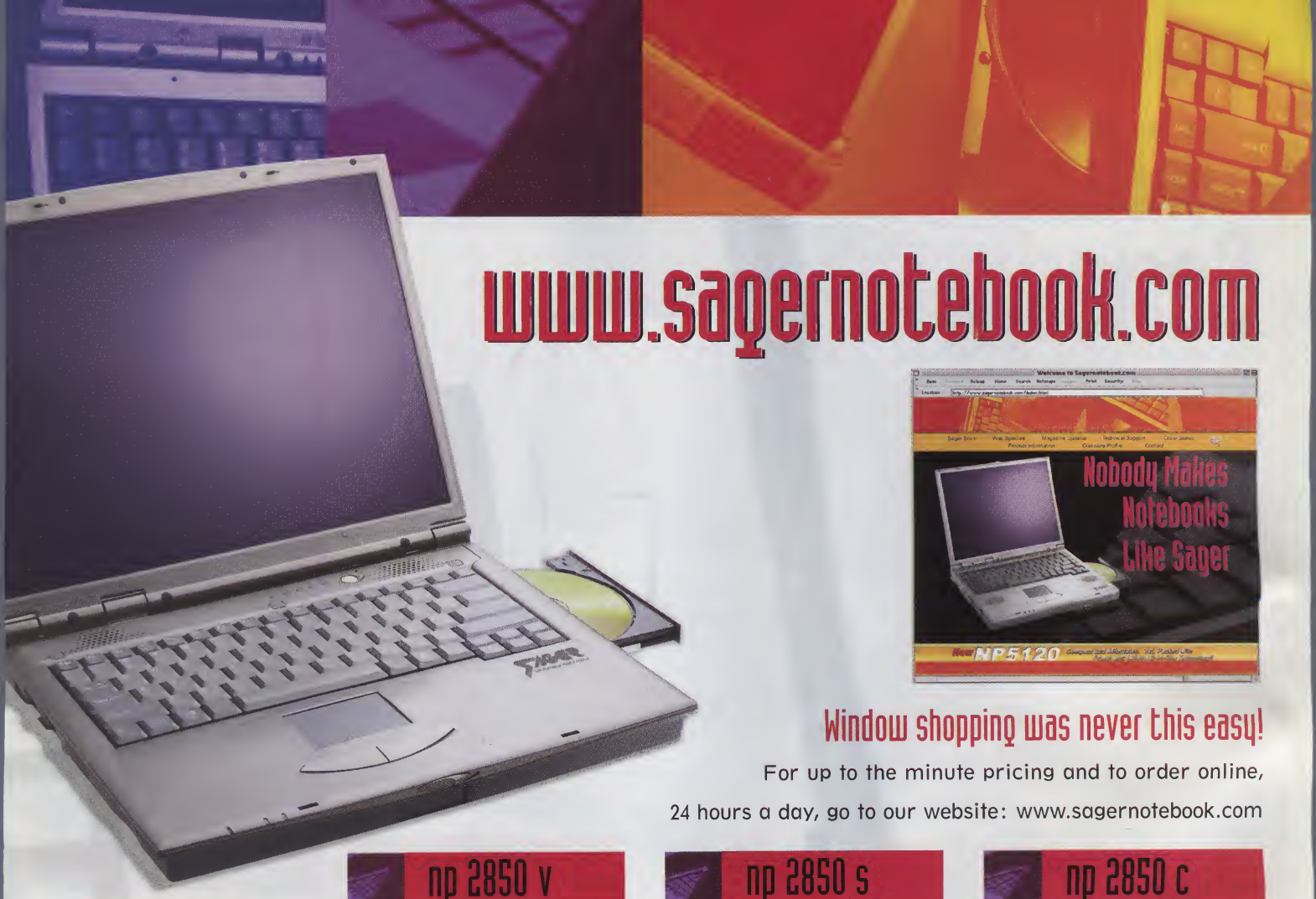
np 8560 s

- 15.0" SXGA+ Active Matrix Display
- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 1.0GHz
- 16MB Video Memory
- 256MB 133MHz SDRAM
- 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive[2]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 15-Cell 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- 102-Key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad
- IEEE-1394 Port
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with opt. Iomega® Zip Drive or 2nd HDD
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port & 1 Video-In Port
- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 9.5 lbs with Battery
- 14.0"w x 11.0"d x 2.2"h
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- 128MB 133MHz SDRAM
- 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive[1]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 15-Cell 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- 102-Key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad
- IEEE-1394 Port
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with opt. Iomega® Zip Drive or 2nd HDD
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port & 1 Video-In Port
- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 9.5 lbs with Battery
- 14.0"w x 11.0"d x 2.2"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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np 2850 v

- 15.0" XGA Active Matrix Display
- Mobile Pentium® III Processor 800MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- 256MB SDRAM
- 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive[2]
- Integrated 10/100 Ethernet
- Thin (1.49") and Lightweight (7.1 lbs)
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- 12.8"w x 10.51"d x 1.49"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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np 2850 s

- 15.0" XGA Active Matrix Display
- Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive[2]
- Integrated 10/100 Ethernet
- Thin (1.49") and Lightweight (7.1 lbs)
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
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np 2850 c

- 15.0" XGA Active Matrix Display
- Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive[1]
- Integrated 10/100 Ethernet
- Thin (1.49") and Lightweight (7.1 lbs)
- 128KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
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- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- 12.8"w x 10.51"d x 1.49"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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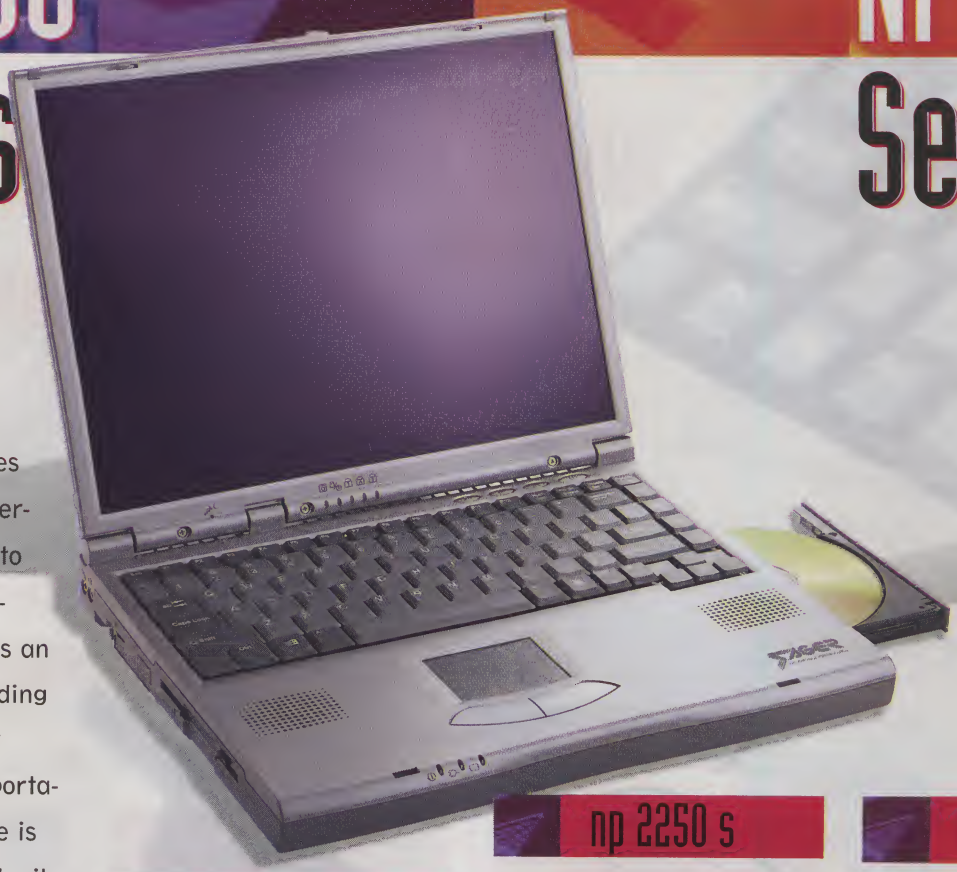
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- Car Adapter
- CD-RW Drive
- Iomega® Zip Drive (NP8560)
- Port Replicator
- Numeric Keypad
- USB Video-Camera
- Secondary Hard Disk Drive (NP8560)

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NP2250 Series

NP5120 Series



The new NP2250 Series from Sager is power-packed and ready to perform. This leading-edge notebook features an all-in-one design including advanced features not found in many other portables. All this and more is loaded into a beautiful, silver case measuring just 1.48" high. The NP2250 Series takes productivity and technology to the next level. With such a complete package, this is one solution you have to consider for any portable computing need.

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- 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- Mobile Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
- 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive[2]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 3 Hot-Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 7.0 lbs with Battery
- 12.1"w x 10.0"d x 1.48"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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np 2250 s

- 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
- 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive[1]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 3 Hot-Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
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- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 7.0 lbs with Battery
- 12.1"w x 10.0"d x 1.48"h
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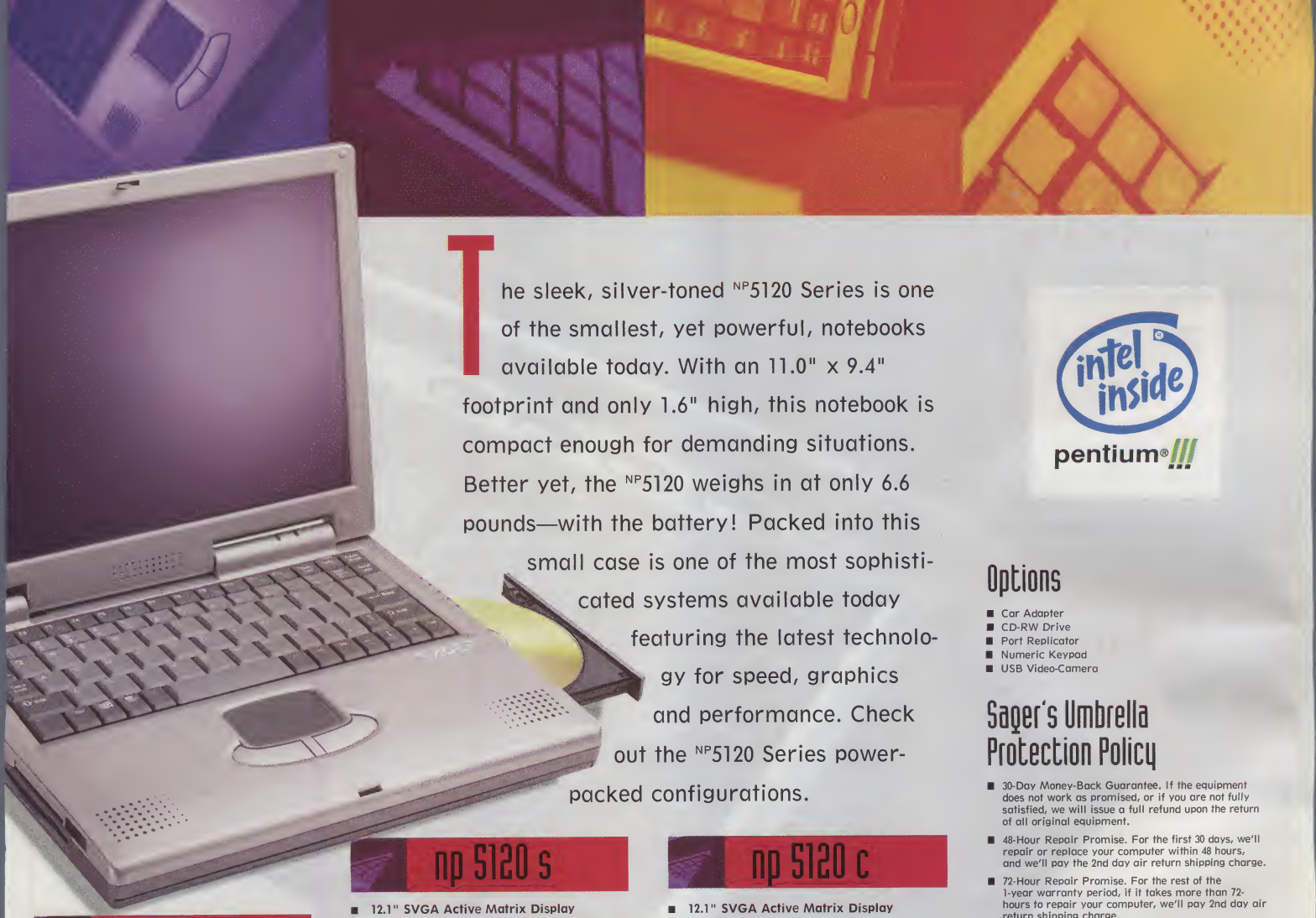
np 2250 c

- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
- Mobile Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
- 64MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive[1]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 3 Hot-Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
- 128KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
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The sleek, silver-toned NP5120 Series is one of the smallest, yet powerful, notebooks available today. With an 11.0" x 9.4" footprint and only 1.6" high, this notebook is compact enough for demanding situations. Better yet, the NP5120 weighs in at only 6.6 pounds—with the battery! Packed into this small case is one of the most sophisticated systems available today featuring the latest technology for speed, graphics and performance. Check out the NP5120 Series power-packed configurations.

np 5120 v

- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
- Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
- 128MB SDRAM
- 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive[2]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- The Smallest All-In-One Design
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 Kensington Lock Port
- Other Ports: USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 6.6 lbs with Battery
- 11.0"w x 9.4"d x 1.6"h
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np 5120 s

- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
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np 5120 c

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- Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 6.6 lbs with Battery
- 11.0"w x 9.4"d x 1.6"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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Options

- Car Adapter
- CD-RW Drive
- Port Replicator
- Numeric Keypad
- USB Video-Camera

Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

- 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee. If the equipment does not work as promised, or if you are not fully satisfied, we will issue a full refund upon the return of all original equipment.
- 48-Hour Repair Promise. For the first 30 days, we'll repair or replace your computer within 48 hours, and we'll pay the 2nd day air return shipping charge.
- 72-Hour Repair Promise. For the rest of the 1-year warranty period, if it takes more than 72-hours to repair your computer, we'll pay 2nd day air return shipping charge.
- 1-Year Parts and Labor Limited Warranty.
- Lifetime Toll-Free Technical Support.

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Notes: 1, 2, 3: CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, and CD-RW drives list a variable read rate. CD-RW write and re-write speeds vary and list only the maximum possible speed. Actual CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, CD-RW speeds will vary and are often less than the maximum possible speed. 4: Maximum Transmission speed of up to 53Kps when downloading and 33.6Kps when uploading data. Actual speeds may vary depending on line conditions and current FCC restrictions.

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NET NOW

Microsoft Touts the Tablet

The future of computing may be flat—but **Microsoft** isn't predicting a downturn in sales. Rather, the company is betting that corporate users will snap up new tablet devices due to debut next year.

Microsoft's Tablet PC aims to fuse the simplicity of paper with the power of a full PC. It will run on the upcoming Windows XP Pro operating system, giving the device a distinctly buttoned-down bent.



An early protoype of tablets to come.

Tablet computing isn't a new concept for Microsoft, which unsuccessfully pushed the Windows for Pen Computing OS almost a decade ago. But the software titan believes that hardware and software have since become suitably advanced to ensure success for the tablet platform.

"It's important to set the expectation that this is a full-fledged PC—it's not an appliance," says Alexandra Loeb, general manager of Microsoft's Tablet PC initiative. The benefits? "This is a more natural way of computing, because laptops take a lot of energy and focus to ensure that you're typing correctly," Loeb explains. "And you can't maintain eye contact in meetings while using laptops."

Companies that have announced support for the Tablet PC include **Acer, Compaq Computer, Fujitsu PC, Sony,** and **Toshiba.** Microsoft says it is working closely with these firms to codevelop the product, but will not design or market hardware itself.

According to Microsoft, the new Tablet Ink handwriting-recognition software enables users to pen notes with a stylus; the computer records the writing at a speedy 133 samples per second, as opposed to the 30 samples per second offered by a mouse. All notes are fully searchable and can be converted automatically to Word format.

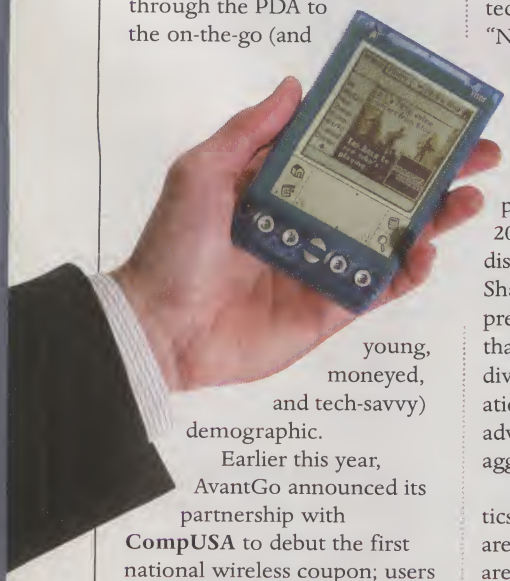
While Loeb says Microsoft's handwriting recognition is the best in the industry, it's not flawless. "Handwriting recognition will never be perfect as long as you can't read your own handwriting," she says.

What's more, the cost of the Tablet PC could be hard to swallow: It's likely to approach the price of today's notebooks.

—Rik Fairlie

ADS TO GO

National and local advertisers alike should be watching companies like **AvantGo** ***(www.avantgo.com)*** and **Vindigo** ***(www.vindigo.com)***, which are delivering targeted messages through the PDA to the on-the-go (and young, moneyed, and tech-savvy) demographic.



Earlier this year, AvantGo announced its partnership with **CompUSA** to debut the first national wireless coupon; users show a salesperson a PDA featuring the coupon to get the discount. Companies such as **Intel** and **Northwest Airlines** have jumped on the bandwagon.

New York-based Vindigo provides an interactive entertainment guide for 20 major cities. When users update the service, Vindigo uses the opportunity to upload local business information, including relevant ads.

But is selling mobile advertising profitable? Most companies currently rely on alternative revenue streams, says Alan Reiter, an analyst at Wireless Internet & Mobile Computing, a mobile-technology information firm. "No one's really rolling out nationally, so the money isn't there yet," he explains.

AvantGo derives most of its revenues from licensing software, with profitability projected for the first half of 2003. Although Vindigo won't disclose numbers, David Shankman, the company's vice president of marketing, says that its revenue streams are also diversified among software creation and licensing, as well as advertising and the sale of aggregate information.

Reiter says that most statistics about wireless advertising are much too optimistic. "There are privacy and other issues that need to be resolved," he says. "Do carriers and service providers have a right to send you ads you haven't agreed to receive? The Federal Trade Commission is looking into that now, and [its decision] will have a great impact on the future of wireless advertising."

—Gwen Moran

A Stinger Ringer From Redmond

Used to be that you used telephones to talk to people. Now the devices, particularly cell phones, are taking on more advanced duties.

Microsoft, for example, recently introduced its smart-phone platform, code-named Stinger. Running on the same Windows CE operating system that powers the Pocket PC, Stinger will be optimized for future high-bandwidth 2.5G and 3G wireless networks. Smart-phone users will be able to manage their contacts, access e-mail and the Internet, and even play audio and video files.

Sound like a souped-up PDA? Yes and no, says Ed Suwanjindar, a product manager in Microsoft's mobile-devices division. He says the Stinger platform is about more than just the convergence of cell phone and PDA; it also aims to make a really great phone for the mobile user. For instance, the software was optimized for one-handed use, and it's meant to conserve both battery life and work in the traditionally slim cell-phone form factor.

Microsoft has already signed on several major cell-phone manufacturers for its platform, including **Mitsubishi, Samsung,** and **Sendo.** All three are expected to release Stinger phones later this year.

Other current players in the smart-phone fray include **Handspring's** VisorPhone, which is an add-on module to the PDA. **Kyocera** recently released the QCP 6035 Smartphone, which offers similar capabilities to Stinger's but is based on the Palm OS. Finally, **Ericsson's** smart phone, the R380, is based on **Symbian's** EPOC operating system, which is popular in Europe.

—Adam Fisher

NET NOW

THE FAILURE FILES

If you're an online shopper, it can be challenging to keep track of the domino-like demise of "new economy" Web sites. You can track the corporate doom and gloom at sites such as **F***edCompany.com, **TheCompost** *(www.thecompost.com)*, **Moreover.com's** Dot Com Doom News *ww.moreover.com/dotcomdoom)*, and **Dotcom Scoop** *(www.dotcomscoop.com)*. They all offer daily updates on the death throes of once-over-valued firms.



Keep tabs on DOA dot-coms.

PHOTO BY STOCK MARKET

Will anything remain of sites that bought the server farm, if you will? **Ghost Sites'** Museum of E-Failure *(www.disobey.com/ghostsites)* displays hundreds of screenshots of defunct "dot-bombs." Anyone remember Pandesic, Snickelways, or Red Gorilla?

Ghost Sites creator Steve Baldwin, an industry veteran who believes that shakeouts come with the territory, was not surprised when sites "blindly following **Amazon.com's** example," such as **Pets.com,** or suffering from "extreme content hubris," such as **Pathfinder.com,** faltered. "Death is as much a part of life in cyberspace as it is offline," notes Baldwin. "Putting up a Web site and maintaining it over the years is a much harder job than many people anticipated in the great burst of Web fever."

Baldwin created the museum as "a tangible reminder that these sites really did exist, and they have a story to tell that's relevant to the future."

Those who need a more tangible reminder can order the Dead Dot-Bomb Mouse Pad for only $15. *—Kevin Shay*

Watch It

If you believe that your wristwatch should express your technophile tendencies, we've got good news: There's no shortage of high-tech timepieces that use the Web to tell more than just the time.

Casio *(www.casio.com)* offers watches James Bond would love. The Wrist Camera Watch includes a tiny camera. Take a picture and view it on the watch's 120-pixel-square LCD screen, then transfer your photos to your PC. Music lovers will want to strap on Casio's Wrist Audio Player, which stores about 33 minutes of CD-quality MP3s.



First the Handspring, now the Wristspring?

Timex takes a licking and keeps on teching. Its Internet Messenger watch *(mobile.timex.com)* doubles as an alphanumeric pager and can display e-mail, news headlines, sports scores, and other short text messages.

If you don't want to lug around a palm-size PDA, try **Matsucom's** OnHand PC *(www.onhandpc.com)*, a wristwatch that offers 30 PDA functions, including a to-do list, an appointment calendar, and an address book. You can download additional programs, including games and enhanced timekeeping functions.

For sports nuts, there's **Game Time's** Schedule Watch *(www.schedulewatch.com)*, available with Major League Baseball, NFL, and NASCAR schedules. It comes preprogrammed with your favorite team's schedule. At a glance you'll know who, when, and where your team is playing. An alarm sounds in case you forget. Replacement modules will keep your watch up-to-date.

If none of these suits your style, visit **Ewatchfactory** *(www.ewatchfactory.com)*, which allows you to design your own analog watch online. You can choose the case, band, hands, engraving, and dial, including your own picture or company logo in the background. *—Kevin Savetz*

Bluetooth Checkup

Tired of countless cables snarling your work area? Many computer users are looking to Bluetooth, a wireless communications protocol that connects electronic devices over distances of up to 30 feet. Although it's been promised for several years, Bluetooth has seen setbacks that could initially hinder its widespread acceptance.

One highly publicized hiccup came at the CeBIT trade show in Hannover, Germany, where 100 Bluetooth transmitters that were supposed to transform a convention hall into a wireless network failed to communicate. Recently, **Microsoft** announced that Bluetooth will not be supported in upcoming versions of Windows.



ILLUSTRATION BY BILL RIESER

Many gadget makers are convinced that, despite these early setbacks, customers are ready for Bluetooth. Although few products have been released, a dozen or so are scheduled for later this year. **Hewlett-Packard** *(www.hp.com)* has announced the DeskJet 995C inkjet printer, which will allow users to print without cables.

Bluetooth isn't just for connecting computer peripherals, however. **Motorola** *(www.motorola.com)* has released a Bluetooth-compatible mobile phone. Coupled with a Bluetooth headset, you can chat on the phone without wires dangling from your ears. **GN Netcom** *(www.gnnetcom.com)* will market a wireless headset that can be used with Bluetooth-enabled mobile phones, PDAs, and laptops. And Socket Communications *(www.socketcom.com)* will soon release a Bluetooth-enabled personal network card to enable Internet access via a mobile phone.

Consumers eager to sink their teeth into Bluetooth will likely have to keep waiting. "Expect to see two or three cell phones and two or three different headsets this year," says Martin Reynolds, research fellow at Gartner. He adds that consumers can expect up to 10 Bluetooth PC Cards, and possibly some mice and keyboards, by year's end. "In 2002 we'll start to see significant volume—tens of millions of units."

—Kevin Savetz



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picto-phone

Sanyo SCP-5000

What it is:
A smartly engineered dual-band cell phone from Sanyo that's outfitted with a color screen. While Japanese users have had their pick of color-display phones for a while, this is the first model to hit American stores.

Why it's cool:
This silver puppy is sleek and lightweight, yet pumped with advanced features. Its 2-inch, 256-color backlit LCD makes wireless Web browsing more practical—at last—and it lets you shuffle up to 20 color photos from your PC.

Tell me more:
Import a photo of a frequent-ringing friend, associate that image with the person's phone number, and the photo will pop up every time he or she calls. Also, dedicated keys provide one-touch access to the Web and e-mail, voice-dialing enables hands-free operation, and a built-in organizer and phone book help keep you on track.

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1



2

1 auto audio

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Kenwood Excelon Z828
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2 close to you

If you're ready for your close-up—or know someone who is—check out the $699 **Olympus Camedia C-700 Ultra Zoom.** The Camedia features a 10x optical zoom lens and a very up-close-and-personal 27x digital zoom. You can set the camera for fully automatic operation or adjust for specific shooting conditions with its manual settings. The C-700 also has a 2.11-megapixel CCD and a 1.5-inch color LCD. The camera saves images on an included 8MB SmartMedia card, and its QuickTime Movie mode lets you capture full-motion video with sound at 15 frames per second.

Olympus Camedia C-700 Ultra Zoom
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3 mini-mouse

Measuring just 1 inch wide by 2.5 inches long, the $49.95 **Super Mini Optical Mouse** from Atek Electronics is the solution for traveling types who don't want to pack a clunky desktop mouse. Its USB cable is 3 feet long (a PS/2 version will be available soon), and the device works with Windows 95, 98, 2000, Me, and NT. The two-button mouse uses optical technology, so it works on nearly any surface, even the wrist rest of your laptop. To keep you from misplacing it on the go, the tiny Super Mini mouse also comes with its own handy travel pouch.

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4 card capturer

The latest business-card scanner from Corex, the $299 **CardScan 600c**, is popping with new features, none more impressive than its Web integration. This capability enables you to save scanned cards to a secure server at ***www.cardscan.net*** and access them via the Web from anywhere in the world. The device scans in full color and has been completely refitted with stylish curves that make it comfortable in the palm of your hand. The new Automap function, powered by MapQuest.com, guides you to a contact's address. You can even attach a full-color image of your business card to outgoing e-mails.

Corex CardScan 600c
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5 multimedia in your mitt

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Sony Clié PEG-N710C
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www.sony.com/clie
34496

6 memory masters

If you find data transportation troublesome, we've got good news: You can tackle removable-memory dilemmas with SanDisk's line of USB card readers. The newest **SecureMate** model costs $29.95 and is designed for use with both Secure Digital (SD) cards and MultiMediaCards, allowing you to shuttle images, audio, video, and other data between your storage cards and your computer with plug-and-play USB ease. Other USB-compliant versions of the **ImageMate** card readers for CompactFlash, SmartMedia, and MultiMediaCards are also available for the same price.

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4



5



6

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- 1-Yr Ltd Warranty[2] ■ 1-Yr NBD On-Site Service[3]

$999 E•VALUE CODE 05013-590609

BUSINESS LEASE: $28/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- 3Com® PCI 10/100 NIC, add $40
- 128MB SDRAM (up to 512MB), add $60
- MS® Windows® 2000 Professional, add $99

DELL™ DIMENSION™ 8100

Cutting-Edge Business Desktop

- NEW Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor at 1.4GHz
- 128MB RDRAM (up to 1024MB)
- 20GB[5] (7200 RPM) Ultra ATA/100 HD
- 17" (16.0" vis) E770 Monitor
- 32MB NVIDIA® GeForce2 MX 4X AGP Graphics
- 48X Max CD-ROM
- SoundBlaster 64V PCI Sound Card
- harman/kardon® Speakers
- Integrated 3Com® 10/100 NIC
- MS® Windows® Me & MS® Office XP Small Business & Norton® AntiVirus™
- 1-Yr Ltd Warranty[2] ■ 1-Yr NBD On-Site Service[3]

$1199 E•VALUE CODE 05013-590611

BUSINESS LEASE: $33/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- MS® Windows® 2000 Professional, add $99
- 2-Yr NBD On-Site Service[3], add $69

DELL™ NOTEBOOKS:

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 2500

NEW—Practical and Affordable Notebook

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 700MHz
- 12.1" SVGA TFT Display
- 64MB 100MHz SDRAM ■ 5GB[5] Ultra ATA HD
- Fixed Internal 24X Max Variable CD-ROM
- Intel® Integrated 3D® AGP Video with up to 8MB Shared System Memory
- 26.5WHr Li-Ion Battery
- Internal Mini-PCI 56K Capable[6] Modem
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 1-Yr Ltd Warranty[2], 1-Yr Mail-in Service, 1-Yr Phone Tech Support

$999 E•VALUE CODE 05013-890609

BUSINESS LEASE: $28/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- 3-Yr Mail-in Service with Lifetime Phone Tech Support, add $99
- Upgrade to 14.1" XGA TFT Display, add $149

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 8000

Pinnacle of Performance Notebook

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 900MHz
- 14.1" Super XGA+ TFT Display
- 64MB 100MHz SDRAM ■ 10GB[5] Ultra ATA HD
- Fixed CD-ROM (Upgrade to CD-RW or DVD)
- Modular Floppy (Upgrade to Optical or Zip)
- 8MB ATI® Mobility™-M4 3D® Video, 4X AGP
- 59WHr Li-Ion Battery w/ExpressCharge™ Technology
- Internal Mini-PCI 56K Capable[6] Modem
- MS® Office XP Small Business
- MS® Windows® Me
- 1-Yr Ltd Warranty[2], 1-Yr Mail-in Service, 1-Yr Phone Tech Support

$1849 E•VALUE CODE 05013-890618

BUSINESS LEASE: $51/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- NEW Fixed Internal CD-RW/DVD Combo Drive, add $399

DELL™ LATITUDE™ C500

NEW—Network-Optimized Value Notebook

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 700MHz
- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display (14.1" XGA Available)
- 64MB SDRAM ■ 6GB[5] Ultra ATA HD
- 8MB ATI® Mobility™ 128 Video, 2X AGP
- MS® Windows® 98, Second Edition
- Modular 24X Max CD-ROM/Floppy Drive
- Internal Mini-PCI 56K Capable[6] SoftModem
- Li-Ion Battery w/ExpressCharge™ Technology
- Dual Pointing – Touchpad and Pointing Stick
- 1-Yr NBD On-Site Service[3]

$1349 E•VALUE CODE 05013-790613

BUSINESS LEASE: $37/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display, add $150
- Deluxe Nylon Carrying Case, add $69

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- 20GB[5] (7200 RPM) ATA/100 HD (up to 40GB[5])
- 17" (16.0" vis) E771p Monitor (up to Flat Panel)
- Integrated Graphics with 4MB Graphics Performance Accelerator
- 48X Max CD-ROM ■ Integrated AC97 Audio
- Integrated 3Com® 10/100 NIC
- MS® Windows® 2000 Professional
- NEW OptiFrame™ Small Mini-Tower Tool-less Chassis in Midnight Gray
- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service[3]

$1299 E•VALUE CODE 05013-390612a

BUSINESS LEASE: $36/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

DELL™ OPTIPLEX™ GX200

Network-Optimized Managed PC

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 1.0GHz
- 128MB PC700 RDRAM (up to 512MB)
- *20GB[5] (7200 RPM)* ATA HD (up to 18.2GB[5] 10K SCSI HD)
- 17" (16.0" vis) E771p Monitor (up to Flat Panel)
- Integrated 3Com® 10/100 NIC
- Integrated 8MB 4X AGP Graphics
- 48X Max CD-ROM ■ Integrated AC97 Audio
- MS® Windows® 2000 Professional
- OptiFrame™ Mini-Tower Tool-less Chassis
- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service[3]

$1499 E•VALUE CODE 05013-390614a

BUSINESS LEASE: $41/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

DELL™ PRECISION™ 330

Advanced Performance Workstation

- Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor at 1.3GHz (up to 1.7GHz)
- Tower Chassis in Midnight Gray
- Single Processor/RAID Capable
- 128MB PC600 RDRAM (up to 2GB)
- 10GB[5] (7200 RPM) EIDE HD (up to 73.4GB[5] 10K RPM SCSI)
- NVIDIA® TNT2 Pro 16MB 4X AGP Graphics Card
- Integrated NIC & Sound ■ 48X Max CD-ROM
- MS® Windows® 2000 Professional
- *3-Yr NBD On-Site Service[3]*
- 7x24 Dedicated Workstation Phone Tech Support

$1299 E•VALUE CODE 05013-490612a

BUSINESS LEASE: $36/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- Monitor Sold as an Upgrade

DELL™ SERVERS:

DELL™ POWEREDGE™ 300SC

NEW—Basic Server at Our Lowest Price

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 800MHz
- Dual Processor Capable
- 64MB 100MHz ECC SDRAM (up to 1GB)
- 10GB[5] (7200 RPM) IDE HD
- Intel® Pro/100+ PCI Ethernet Adapter
- 48X Max IDE CD-ROM
- 1-Yr NBD On-Site Service[3], Years 2 & 3 Parts
- 7x24 Phone Tech Support

$899 E•VALUE CODE 05013-290608

BUSINESS LEASE: $24/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- 2nd Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 800MHz, add $399
- Red Hat® Linux™ 7.0 Installed Upon Request

DELL™ POWEREDGE™ 1400SC

NEW—Small Business Value Server

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 933MHz
- Dual Processor Capable
- 128MB 133MHz ECC SDRAM (up to 2GB)
- 9GB[5] (10K RPM) Ultra3 (Ultra 160) SCSI HD (up to 36GB[5] 10K RPM)
- 48X Max IDE CD-ROM
- Embedded Ultra3 (Ultra 160) SCSI Controller
- Dell™ OpenManage™ Server Management
- 3-Yr NBD Bronze On-Site Service[3]
- 7x24 Phone Tech Support

$1199 E•VALUE CODE 05013-290611

BUSINESS LEASE: $33/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- 2nd 9GB[5] (10K RPM) IDE HD, add $249
- MS® Windows® 2000 Server, add $799

DELL™ POWEREDGE™ 2500SC

NEW—Affordable Scalability Server

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 933MHz
- Dual Processor Capable
- 128MB 133MHz ECC SDRAM (up to 4GB)
- 9GB[5] (10K RPM) Ultra3 (Ultra 160) SCSI HD
- Dual Integrated Ultra3 SCSI Controllers
- 24X Max IDE CD-ROM
- Dell™ OpenManage™ Server Management
- 3-Yr NBD Bronze On-Site Service[3]
- 7x24 Phone Tech Support

$1599 E•VALUE CODE 05013-290615

BUSINESS LEASE: $44/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- Basic Server Installation, add $259
- MS® Small Business Server, add $1299

intel inside pentium® III

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BEST BUY

Computer Shopper and ZDNet editors pick the best values among the latest products.

DESKTOPS

Atlas Micro AS5000
Priced around $1,000, Atlas Micro Logistic's AS5000 is an exceptional bargain with a real performance kick. We were particularly impressed with the system's DVD playback and sound quality.
SEE THIS MONTH'S REVIEW ON P. 66
Atlas Micro Logistic
www.buy-atlas.com
Direct Price: $999 34467

Atlas Micro XS5000
Comparable in almost every respect to the four other Athlon/DDR systems tested this month, the XS5000 costs about $1,000 less, and includes a quality sound system, a 30-day money-back guarantee, and a three-year parts-and-labor warranty.
SEE THIS MONTH'S FEATURE ON P. 100
Atlas Micro Logistic
www.buy-atlas.com
Direct Price: $1,779 34455

Dell Dimension 4100
The Dell Dimension 4100 is the fastest 1GHz Pentium III/Windows Me-based system we've tested, a premium system without the premium price. Solid components such as its nVidia GeForce2 MX-based graphics card and 7,200rpm hard drive make all the difference.
SEE THIS MONTH'S REVIEW ON P. 67
Dell Computer • *www.dell.com*
Direct Price: $1,549 34477

ePCdirect Integra
The ePCdirect Integra revives the idea of convergence, combining a powerful, stylish desktop with entertainment features, including a TV tuner and a 15-inch LCD.
REVIEWED IN JUNE ISSUE
ePCdirect • *www.epcdirect.com*
Direct Price: $1,799 34436

Xi MTower SP
Equally well-suited for both die-hard gamers and demanding business professionals, the Xi MTower SP is quite simply the fastest system we've ever tested, helped by its killer graphics board with 64MB of onboard DDR memory and dual RAID-controlled hard drives.
SEE THIS MONTH'S FEATURE ON P. 100
Xi Computer • *www.xicomputer.com*
Direct Price: $2,550 34459


Atlas Micro XS5000

HARDWARE

Cornerstone c910
Just $269, the Cornerstone c910 is a 19-inch CRT offering high refresh rates and a flawless image at resolutions up to 1,600 by 1,200.
REVIEWED IN JUNE ISSUE
Cornerstone Peripherals Technology
www.bigmonitors.com
Mfr. Est. Price: $269 34425

Epson Stylus Photo 1280
With a maximum resolution of 2,880dpi, the Stylus Photo 1280 produces flawless images, including borderless photo prints.
REVIEWED IN JUNE ISSUE
Epson America • *www.epson.com*
List Price: $499 34422

Olympus Camedia C-2040 Zoom
Don't be fooled by the Olympus Camedia C-2040's diminutive size. This 2.1-megapixel camera takes sharp, bright pictures and is loaded with impressive features, including the fastest zoom lens in its class.
SEE THIS MONTH'S REVIEW ON P. 72
Olympus America
www.olympusamerica.com
Mfr. Est. Price: $499 34479

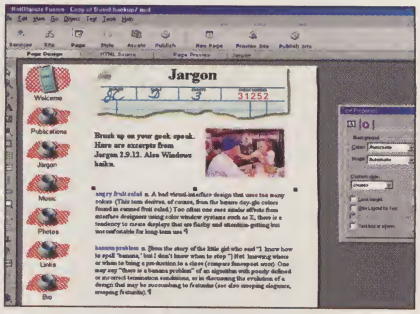
Samsung SyncMaster 570sTFT
If the SyncMaster's $604 price and exceptional color reproduction weren't enough to recommend it, this 15-inch LCD monitor also switches from portrait to landscape orientation with amazing ease.



REVIEWED IN JUNE ISSUE
Samsung Electronics America
www.samsungmonitor.com
Mfr. Est. Price: $604 34412

Voyetra Turtle Beach Santa Cruz
In addition to terrific sound quality, the $79.95 Santa Cruz offers a wonderfully innovative I/O configuration and an outstanding selection of digital effects.
SEE THIS MONTH'S FEATURE ON P. 114
Voyetra Turtle Beach
www.turtle-beach.com
Mfr. Est. Price: $79.95 34454

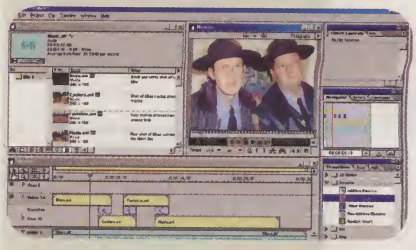
NetObjects Fusion MX



SOFTWARE

Adobe Photoshop Elements
Photoshop Elements delivers Photoshop 6.0's best features for hundreds less than the original and adds some new touches, such as a one-click straighten-and-crop feature.
REVIEWED IN JUNE ISSUE
Adobe Systems • *www.adobe.com*
Mfr. Est. Price: $99 34415

Adobe Premiere 6
Adobe Premiere 6 comes closer to perfection with new features like the Export to Web feature, which helps you upload your compressed videos to a Web site.



REVIEWED IN MAY ISSUE
Adobe Systems • *www.adobe.com*
Mfr. Est. Price: $549 (full version); **$149** (upgrade) 34302

BlackICE Defender 2.136
New to firewalls? BlackICE Defender has you covered. Just set the security level, and the program takes care of all the details.
REVIEWED IN JUNE ISSUE
Network ICE • *www.networkice.com*
Mfr. Est. Price: $39.95 34403

NetObjects Fusion MX
Fusion MX makes complex Web design relatively easy with its library of 200 styles and its ability to manage repeated elements such as navigation bars.
SEE THIS MONTH'S FEATURE ON P. 124
NetObjects • *www.netobjects.com*
List Price: $99.95 34464

Pocket Express Entertainment Pack
Kill some time with this compilation of games for your Palm-compatible device, including new titles like Lode Runner: The Legend Returns and old standards such as Solitaire Free.
REVIEWED IN MAY ISSUE
Pocket Express
www.pocketexpress.com
Price: $29.99 34327

GAMES

Black & White

Black & White is a massive, multitiered game in which players adopt the role of a benevolent or evil god. With its stunning



graphics, engrossing AI, and smartly designed game mechanisms, this game is bound to please even the pickiest players.

SEE THIS MONTH'S REVIEW ON P. 98

Electronic Arts • *blackandwhite.ea.com*
Mfr. Est. Price: $39.95 34481

Clive Barker's Undying

Undying is one of the best first-person shooter titles in years, featuring brilliant graphics and phenomenal use of sound. Start exercising your trigger finger.

REVIEWED IN JUNE ISSUE
EA Games • *www.ea.com*
Mfr. Est. Price: $39.99 34419

NASCAR Racing 4

Sierra's latest racing sim packs in 21 tracks with a roster of 76 drivers and cars. New damage modeling makes the collisions almost as entertaining as the races.

REVIEWED IN JUNE ISSUE
Sierra Studios
sierrastudios.com/games/nascar4
Mfr. Est. Price: $49.95 34417

WEB SERVICES

Netflix

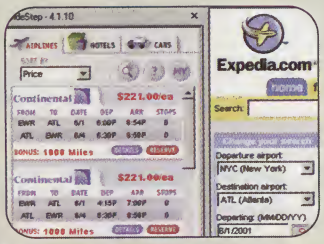
Love renting DVD movies, but hate the trek to the video store? With Netflix, rent all the movies you want in batches of three for a flat fee of $19.95 per month. Movies are delivered and returned by U.S. mail, and return postage is included in the monthly fee.

REVIEWED IN MAY ISSUE
Netflix.com • *www.netflix.com*
Price: $13.95 to $39.95 per month 34359

SideStep

SideStep, a free travel-planning plug-in for Internet Explorer, lets you search the databases of 80 travel suppliers directly, possibly finding cheap fares that Expedia and Travelocity.com overlooked.

SEE THIS MONTH'S REVIEW ON P. 96
SideStep • *www.sidestep.com*
Price: Free 34470





Olympus Camedia C-2040 Zoom



WinBook X1

MOBILE

Apple PowerBook G4

Apple's PowerBook G4 has it all: excellent performance and great looks. Add to that a 15.2-inch screen and a DVD drive, and you've got one great laptop.

REVIEWED IN JUNE ISSUE
Apple Computer • *www.apple.com*
Mfr. Est. Price: $3,499 34430

Dell Inspiron 8000

The 850MHz Pentium III Dell Inspiron 8000 casually devoured our benchmark tests. Throw in the 20GB hard drive, 128MB of RAM, and 15-inch screen, and the Inspiron 8000 is a bargain at $2,422.

REVIEWED IN MAY ISSUE
Dell Computer • *www.dell.com*
Direct Price: $2,422 34300

Intel Pocket Concert Audio Player

Intel's foray into the MP3-hardware market is a winner. Loaded with an amazing 128MB of memory, the Pocket Concert is barely bigger than a business card.

REVIEWED IN MAY ISSUE
Intel • *www.intel.com/home/audio*
Direct Price: $299.99 34339

Sonicblue Rio 800

Sonicblue's Rio 800 lets you expand its 64MB of internal memory with snap-on "backpacks." It includes a wired remote control and a built-in voice recorder. A model with 128MB of internal memory is also available.

REVIEWED IN MAY ISSUE
Sonicblue • *www.riohome.com*
Direct Price: $249.95 34343

Sonicblue RioVolt

Why settle for 64MB of music when you can have 700MB? Sonicblue's RioVolt is a portable CD player that also reads MP3 and



Windows Media Audio (WMA) files, so you can burn your own music mix.

REVIEWED IN JUNE ISSUE
Sonicblue • *www.riohome.com*
Mfr. Est. Price: $169.95 34432

WinBook X1

Equipped with a 1GHz Pentium III and a whopping 320MB of SDRAM, the WinBook X1 delivers heavyweight performance while tipping the scales at just 6.2 pounds. It also has a smartly designed aluminum case that prevents the unit from getting too hot.

SEE THIS MONTH'S REVIEW ON P. 84
WinBook Computer • *www.winbook.com*
Mfr. Est. Price: $3,098 34488

NETWORKING

D-Link DWL-920 11Mbps USB Wireless Home Network Kit

Combining an access point for broadband connections with two USB network adapters, D-Link's DWL-920 offers a simple and flexible approach to building an 802.11b wireless home network.

SEE THIS MONTH'S REVIEW ON P. 76
D-Link Systems • *www.dlink.com*
Mfr. Est. Price: $499 34480

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866MHz

Intel® Pentium® III processor
128MB RAM, 15GB Hard Drive
48X CD-ROM, Windows 98

$1,019

Deskpro EN Small Form Factor #845287



COMPAQ

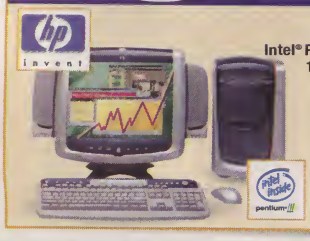
800MHz

Intel® Celeron™ processor
128MB RAM, 40GB Hard Drive
40X CD-ROM, 56K modem
Windows Me

$799

Presario 5000SUS
#958285
Monitor and speakers sold separately.

High Performance Desktop



866MHz
Intel® Pentium III® processor,
128MB RAM, 40GB HD,
CD-RW, 10/100 NIC
Windows Me

$899

Pavilion 7845 #958031
Monitor sold separately



SONY

900MHz
AMD Duron™ processor
128MB RAM, 40GB HD
CD-RW, 56K modem
DVD, 10/100 NIC
Windows Me

$849

PCV-J200 #959390
Monitor and speakers sold separately.

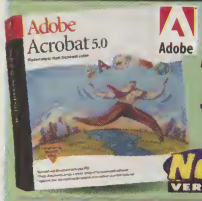


1GHz
AMD Athlon™ processor
128MB RAM, 60GB HD
12X DVD, CD-RW, 10/100 NIC
Windows Me

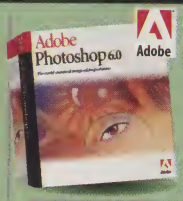
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Pavilion 8860 #959359
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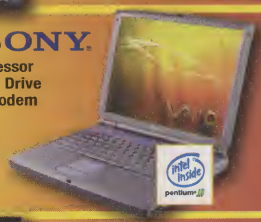
TOSHIBA **700MHz**
Intel® Celeron™ processor
64MB RAM, 10GB HD, DVD
10/100 NIC, 56K modem
13" DSTN display
Windows Me
$999
Satellite 1730 #947768



800MHz COMPAQ
Intel® Pentium III® processor
128MB RAM, 15GB Hard Drive
8X DVD, 14.1" TFT display
$1,799
Presario 12XL510
#958410



800MHz
Intel® Pentium® III processor, 64MB RAM
20GB HD, 56K V.90 modem
12.1" TFT display, Win 98
$1,869
ThinkPad A22M #957287



750MHz SONY
Intel® Pentium III® processor
128MB RAM, 15GB Hard Drive
DVD, 10/100 NIC, 56K modem
Windows Me
$1,899
PCG FX220 #959026



800MHz
Intel® Pentium III® processor, 64MB RAM
10GB HD, 24X CD-ROM
56K modem, 15" TFT display, Windows 98
$1,997
ThinkPad A22M #976196

Systems!



COMPAQ **1GHz**
Intel® Pentium® III processor
128MB RAM, 20GB Hard Drive
48X CD-ROM, 10/100 NIC
Windows 2K/NT
$1,139
Deskpro EN Desktop #874502
Monitor sold separately.

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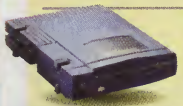
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JOHN BLACKFORD



Meet the New Champ Of Wi-Fi: Notebooks

While PDAs and cell phones show the allure of portability, it's notebooks that are poised to become champions of the wireless LAN.

IT'S IRONIC THAT NOTEBOOK PCs, THE ORIGINAL CHAMPIONS of portability, have remained tethered to phone lines while cell phones, pagers, and wireless PDAs roam free. You could do the budget for a billion-dollar company using a notebook PC in your backyard—or in a rowboat—but to send that report via e-mail, you would have to drag your notebook back to the phone jack (or Ethernet connection, if you were lucky).

That's about to change, as notebook manufacturers begin to build wireless capability into their products and the number of places you can use wireless LANs skyrockets. What's more, the interest stirred up by wireless phones and PDAs could even create demand for those same capabilities in notebooks, unleashing a laptop renaissance that could cut into the success of smaller wireless devices.

No, I'm not suggesting the demise of cell phones or wireless PDAs. But wireless notebooks do offer compelling advantages. Their screens are dramatically larger than those of even the most generous PDAs; their keyboards are large enough for touch-typing; and they're outfitted with multigigabyte hard drives, CD-RW and DVD drives, and more. Even the most advanced cell phones and PDAs can't touch these capabilities. But they do offer extreme portability, so clearly they're here to stay.

Until recently, notebooks could not communicate wirelessly from remote locations, unless you happen to be lucky enough to live in a city in which services like Metricom's wireless Ricochet Internet access are available. One notable exception has been Apple's two-year-old AirPort wireless LAN for Mac notebooks. But despite an early lead, a lack of widespread adoption prevents use of the AirPort outside selected companies and locales.

Now, not only do Dell, Compaq, Toshiba, IBM, and Apple offer wireless networking with notebook PCs, but they also employ the same wireless standard, 802.11b (recently rechristened "Wi-Fi" for marketing reasons). This standard not only ensures that notebooks can communicate with one another, but it also practically guarantees critical mass.



But just as the Universal Serial Bus didn't become universal until there were plenty of USB devices to connect to, 802.11b won't become commonplace until a lot of locations are outfitted with 802.11b equipment—and with compelling applications. With these two factors in place, the trend toward wireless-LAN notebooks will likely snowball as convention centers, airports, and hotels begin offering wireless connectivity. Even more ready for wireless networking are college campuses and business parks.

EASY ACCESS

The conveniences of wireless networking are immediately appealing. For instance, you may soon be able to walk into a convention center with your notebook, sit down anywhere, and check your e-mail. You'll also be able to download news releases from participating companies, take a quick virtual tour of the show (complete with highlights and presentations tailored to your interests), and possibly even arrange meetings with vendors and colleagues attending.

According to a recent Dataquest survey of 200 technology managers, 50 percent plan to use wireless networking in their companies in the next year or two. At present, more than two-thirds of all wireless LANs are based on Wi-Fi, and that percentage is growing.

The reason is simple: Wi-Fi is mature technology that's an extension of decades-old Ethernet, the business standard for wired networks. It's also capable of a very respectable 11Mbps transfer rate, with a good range that enables Wi-Fi clients to roam as far as 100 yards from an "access point," though keeping within 50 yards ensures full-speed transfers.

Later this year, products based on a newer version, called 802.11a, will begin shipping. The updated version will be capable of 54Mbps, more than enough to handle full video, though the hardware will be significantly more expensive, at least initially.

Both wireless standards are easier to install and maintain than wired LANs, though PC Cards and access points cost more than wired Ethernet equipment. But cable won't need to be strung through ceilings and walls, and Wi-Fi is cheaper than Ethernet in the long run.

As for notebooks, they're hot sellers, even without much help from Wi-Fi. Desktop PC sales stalled over a year ago, but notebooks grew more than 20 percent from the fourth quarter of 1999 to the fourth quarter of 2000, according to Dataquest. With widespread adoption of Wi-Fi, notebooks could again excel as mobile users' product of choice and mount a serious challenge to desktop PCs.

john_blackford@zdnet.com

ILLUSTRATION BY MATT FOSTER

SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 58



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2293

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> 3D Surround Sound
> 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
> Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
> 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
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> Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
> 3 Hot Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
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> Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
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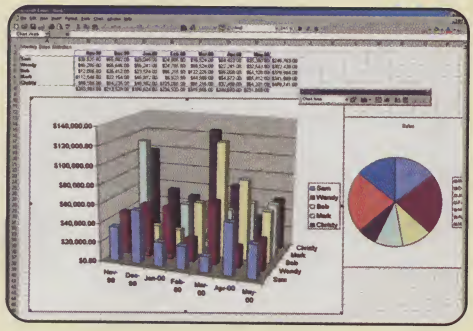
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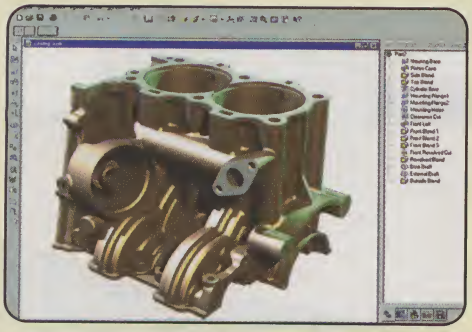
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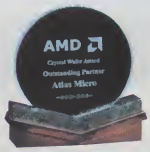
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JOHN DVORAK



Technology Fatigue Syndrome Strikes Computer Users

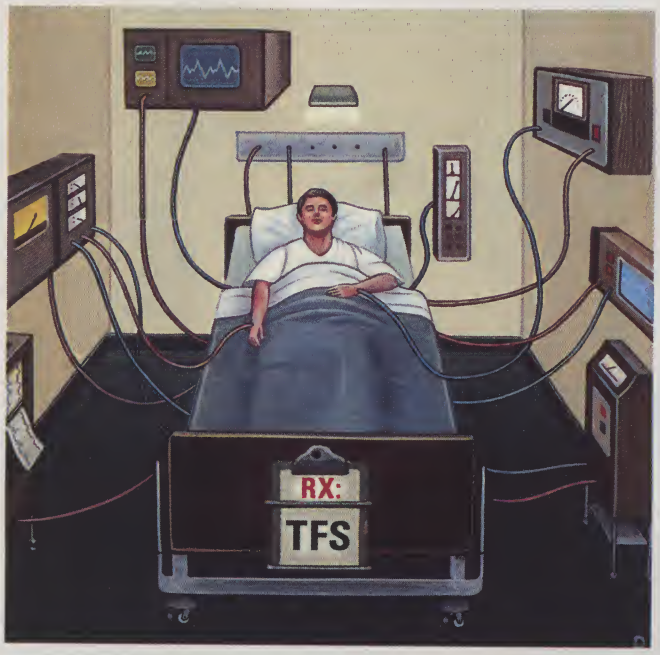
Are endless technological innovations wearing you out? You may be suffering from TFS.

I WAS ALWAYS IMPRESSED WITH MY PALM'S ABILITY TO BEAM business cards back and forth. You could also beam programs and games. I recently realized I haven't beamed a card in nearly a year; I can't recall the last time I beamed a game. I also used to play more with the download sites. I got tired of it. I believe the download sites are doing well, and I have to assume there's some growth. But how much is from new users? Will everyone finally stop doing it when they get tired of it? I call this "getting tired of it" phenomenon Technology Fatigue Syndrome (TFS).

Keep an eye out for this syndrome. If TFS seriously damages any emerging technology, it will be the upcoming 3G phones. NTT DoCoMo will launch the first official 3G system based on WCDMA (Wideband Code Division Multiple Access) some time this year, although the date may be pushed back. Others will follow, as a worldwide rollout takes place amid squabbling and nay-saying.

According to one 3G FAQ: "Ericsson has been the first company to develop and showcase EDGE, bringing TDMA and GSM operators together. GPRS and EDGE—Ericsson's speed-increasing air interface solution for existing spectrum—are major steps in the common evolution of GSM and TDMA, enabling consumers to access services in both networks and enjoy true global roaming. Ericsson has been researching 3G technologies for more than 10 years, which led to its pioneering of the 3G technology called WCDMA." Just reading the description invites TFS.

Using three modes of operation, including WCDMA and CDMA2000, across a number of spectrums, as well as EDGE (Enhanced Data rates for Global Evolution), these phones should be incredibly powerful. It's further expected that more than a billion folks will be using phones like these, and there's a possibly mistaken belief that they'll want to use them for more than just chatting. This led 3G promoters to talk about multimedia on the phones. You'll watch video clips and exchange photos, they say. But will you really?



I currently use a Motorola StarTAC, and technology fatigue dominates my use of it. With my previous phone—a nice Nextel—I read the manual, entered phone numbers, and learned the innards of the device. I gave up on that with the StarTAC. If a call comes in, I answer it. If I miss a call, I use Caller ID to call the person back. I never bother to put the number in any permanent place. I'm too tired to do it. Unless these 3G phones do it all for you automatically, I don't see people using them for much more than phone calls.

This is the basic problem with technology today. Devices are sold to us on the premise that they'll make things easier, not harder. Having to punch in a phone number on a small phone for someone you may call back once, twice, or never is more trouble than it's worth. There's no payback to a lot of the activity we do regarding this gear.

TFS may play a part in slowing the computer-upgrade cycle, too. I've complained before about the difficulty of migrating applications from one machine to another. This is one reason not to upgrade. Another is the fatigue factor. People haven't been stressing the machines enough to need new performance.

The only thing that gets upgraded is the hard drive for more capacity. Why do we need more capacity? Because disk maintenance is too tiring. It's easier to just let stuff accumulate. This is all part of TFS. We just can't take it anymore.

Marketers haven't come to grips with this problem. They're unveiling products assuming all users are going to enthusiastically embrace all the features. And although some users still manage to avoid the syndrome, most are falling prey.

An interesting aspect of TFS is how people react to it. It's like the reaction to smallpox during the Dark Ages. People feared they were going to get it, so they rejected those who already had it. An example of this was a recent column I wrote complaining about the complexity of TiVo and ReplayTV devices. I've never received so much hate mail, not even after mocking the Macintosh.

There must be a way to roll out a complex technology that doesn't need so much personal attention. The 3G phones will quickly cause TFS, and most people will never use their rich features.

Hopefully, a cure for TFS can be found.

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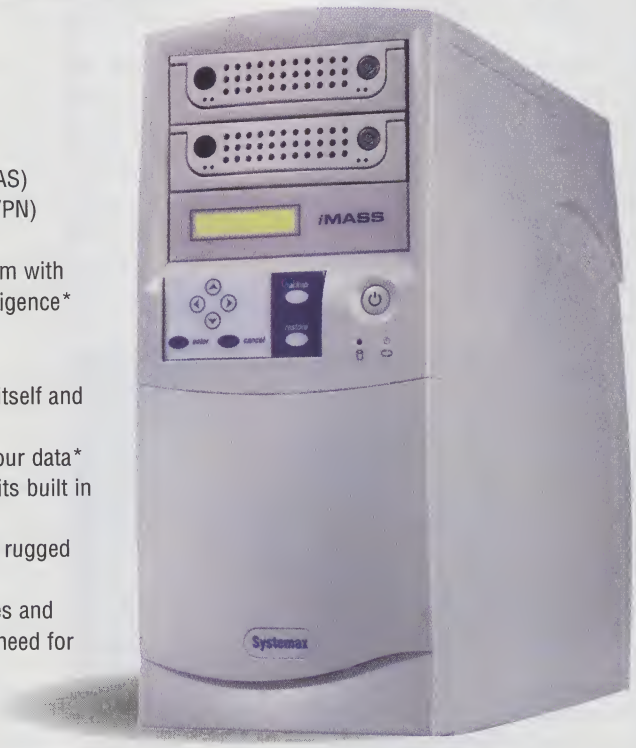
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JIM O'BRIEN



Digital Music Goes Corporate

Major labels plan to offer pay services this summer.

LIKE SO MANY INTERNET PROPONENTS IN THE EARLY DAYS OF digital music, I was once pretty naive about how quickly online music services would transform the industry. From 1996 to 1998, it seemed artist backlash against record-label control (à la the Artist Formerly Known as Prince), coupled with the rise of new secure digital formats such as Liquid Audio, would compel record companies to give artists more control over how they distribute online music, and consumers more control over how they compile and listen to it. But the labels refused to make their catalogs available digitally—until Napster and MP3 brought digital music to the masses.

Now that the era of free music may be nearing an end, it's hard to say whether Napster ushered in the digital age or caused such a legal furor that it kept the labels from focusing on creating the for-pay services we hoped for.

Whatever side of the Napster debate you're on, there's no way to separate the popularity of the medium from the fact that it was free. Did people like the idea of sampling music from like-minded souls, or were they just in it for the freebies?

REWIND

Bertelsmann intends to put an end to Napster freebies through its strategic alliance with the service. While Napster tries to make good on Bertelsmann's promise to deliver a copyright-protected, for-pay service by this summer, the rest of the recording industry has made their most positive announcements yet regarding digital music. In one week's time, all five labels committed to offering some portion of their catalogs via new secure digital-music services by this summer.

Sony Music and Universal Music announced Duet, a digital-music service that will package their content around applications and distribute private-label versions on affiliate Web sites. Yahoo has agreed to launch a Duet-driven service this summer. AOL Time Warner (Warner Music), Bertelsmann (BMG Entertainment), and EMI, which make up the rest of the big labels, agreed to work with RealNetworks to launch a similar music service this summer called MusicNet. Like Duet, MusicNet will partner with third-party distribution services to offer the labels' content via private-label applications. AOL and RealNetworks will be the obvious initial affiliates. None of these companies offered details on the initial catalog, formats, or specific business models, but they may announce additional details by the time you read this.



"This is a land grab," says Yankee Group analyst Steve Vonder Haar. "They're going to be there with digital-music services without having the foggiest idea how to make money."

The result, he says, will be more consumer confusion, particularly as format battles arise and the labels experiment with subscription fees versus à la carte download fees—neither of which has proven successful.

Battle lines are already forming around the Windows Media and RealNetworks formats. MTVi announced it would work with RioPort, a digital music ASP that uses Windows Media for downloads, and Microsoft launched a new MSN Music channel. Microsoft's offering will be initially free and focused on audio streaming, and promises some cool features such as preference matching to help you discover music that matches your interests, but everyone expects the Windows behemoth to move into the for-pay download space.

"Napster had everything right except the copyright," says Vonder Haar. "It had the easiest interface and all the relevant titles in a single place with a single technology format. Now we're going to have a matrix, with mix-and-match label alliances based on different flavors of services."

Bertelsmann claims Napster is doing well in talks with Duet and MusicNet, although how the MP3 format factors into any service remains to be seen. (At press time, Universal Music announced it would buy struggling MP3 pay-per-download service Emusic, potentially for integration into Duet.)

REPLAY

Where does that leave listeners? In one sense, right back in 1997, hopeful but dissatisfied. In another sense, the labels are finally participating, so these initial experiments will justify the necessary hardware, software, and most important, business development to make digital music a success.

Although The Gartner Group has publicly predicted failure for any service that doesn't include all five labels' catalogs, the labels have a tremendous opportunity to show how serious they are, even with the current 3-to-2 split.

If Duet and MusicNet arrive with a diverse cross section of the labels' respective catalogs, all it takes is a halfway-decent application and low initial pricing to let listeners discover and rediscover music the way Napster did. The rest of the label alliances can fall into place over time. But if we see prices similar to those of physical CDs and catalogs that cater to Top 40 hits you can hear everywhere, we're back to square one.

jobrien_eshopper@mail.com

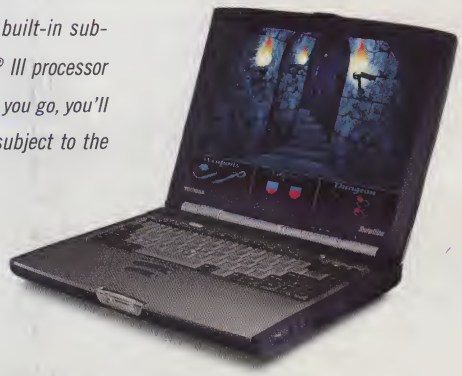
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MICHAEL SLATER



Will the 'Information Furnace' Engulf the PC?

The time may come when a home media server replaces the PC.

DURING THEIR 20-PLUS YEARS OF EVOLUTION, PCs HAVE GONE through several application phases, each of which drove a major wave of growth. At first, only hobbyists interested in computers for their own sake bought them. Then came the business applications, when most consumers bought PCs either for home-based businesses or for doing office work at home. Next came games. Most recently, e-mail and Web browsing have been the driving force.

The next big wave, which has been building over the past two years, is the PC as media machine. In this role, the PC becomes the repository and access device for photos, music, and video, driving it much deeper into the lives of consumers.

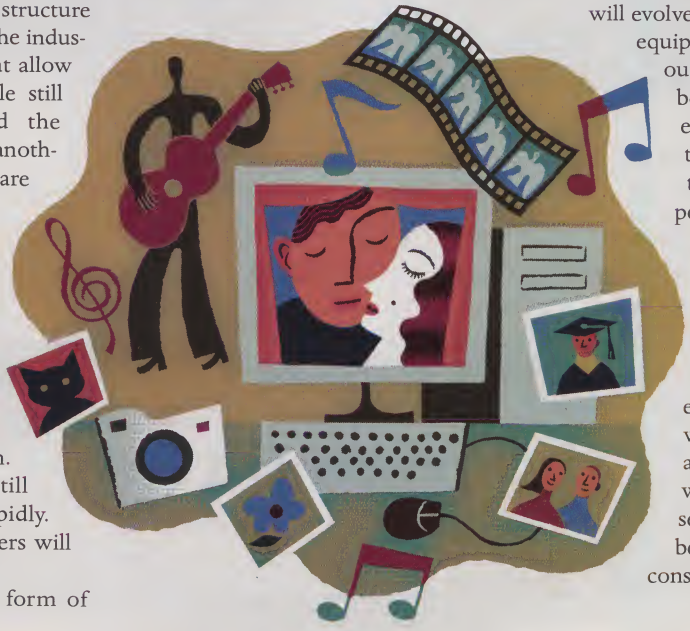
This idea isn't new. In earlier eras, multimedia PCs and entertainment PCs were touted as new categories of computers. What is new is that entry-level PC technology has reached a point where even the least expensive systems have the capability in processor speed, memory, storage, and connectivity to perform admirably in most of these roles.

PCs are so effective as music machines they're threatening the economic structure of the music industry. Eventually, the industry will create business models that allow online distribution of music while still fairly compensating artists and the recording companies. One way or another, computers as music machines are here to stay.

For digital-camera users, PCs have become the center of their photo activity. You can get prints without using a PC, but if you want to save the digital data, the PC is the only realistic solution. PC screens are great for viewing photos, and inkjet printers do a remarkably good job printing them. Digital-camera shipments are still small, but they're growing rapidly. Within a few years, most PC owners will be using digital cameras.

Video is the most demanding form of media because of the very high data rates required for good quality. Short, low-resolution video snippets are well within the capability of today's PCs, but TV-quality video of any length fills up even a large hard drive pretty quickly. And because quality video requires so much data, it isn't yet being passed around much on the Internet. But its time will come, as hard drives continue to increase in size and broadband Internet connections become commonplace.

PCs aren't the only devices that can handle digital media. Pocket PCs and Palm handheld computers can serve as photo albums or music players, and they can even play low-rate video. Among dedicated digital-media devices, MP3 players have been the most successful.



The growth of digital appliances could threaten the role of the PC, but it's more likely to strengthen it. MP3 players and handheld computers are really PC accessories; they typically depend on the PC for connectivity, backup, and extended storage.

In the future, it's possible that a home media server, combined with thin-client terminals on a high-speed network, could displace the PC. You could put the media server in a closet or basement, leading some to call it the "information furnace." It could be always on and always connected to the Internet, acting not only as the home's digital-media storage vault but also making its content available from the Internet (with appropriate security, of course).

This, combined with an assortment of media appliances, has a lot of technical appeal. Business realities, however, make it far more likely the PC will be a long-running stand-in for the role *of home media* server. Its momentum is very hard to fight. The PC industry's high volumes deliver incredible cost-effectiveness, and there's a great deal of inertia among PC users; they aren't going to switch to another solution without a compelling reason. A home media server could be a great addition to a home network, but few consumers are likely to spend the money unless there's a huge, tangible benefit.

One big question is how digital media will evolve in the living room. New-era hi-fi equipment will play digital music without requiring a PC. Televisions are becoming increasingly digital, and eventually, streaming video from the Internet will replace broadcast television. And as more and more people switch to digital cameras, they'll want to view their pictures in the living room, not just at the PC.

In the long run, the proliferation of devices that will draw on the PC as a media server will raise demand to a point where users will be driven to buy a dedicated server because the PC will become bogged down by its server role. Only then will the PC begin to fade as the center of the consumer's media world.

michael@mslater.com

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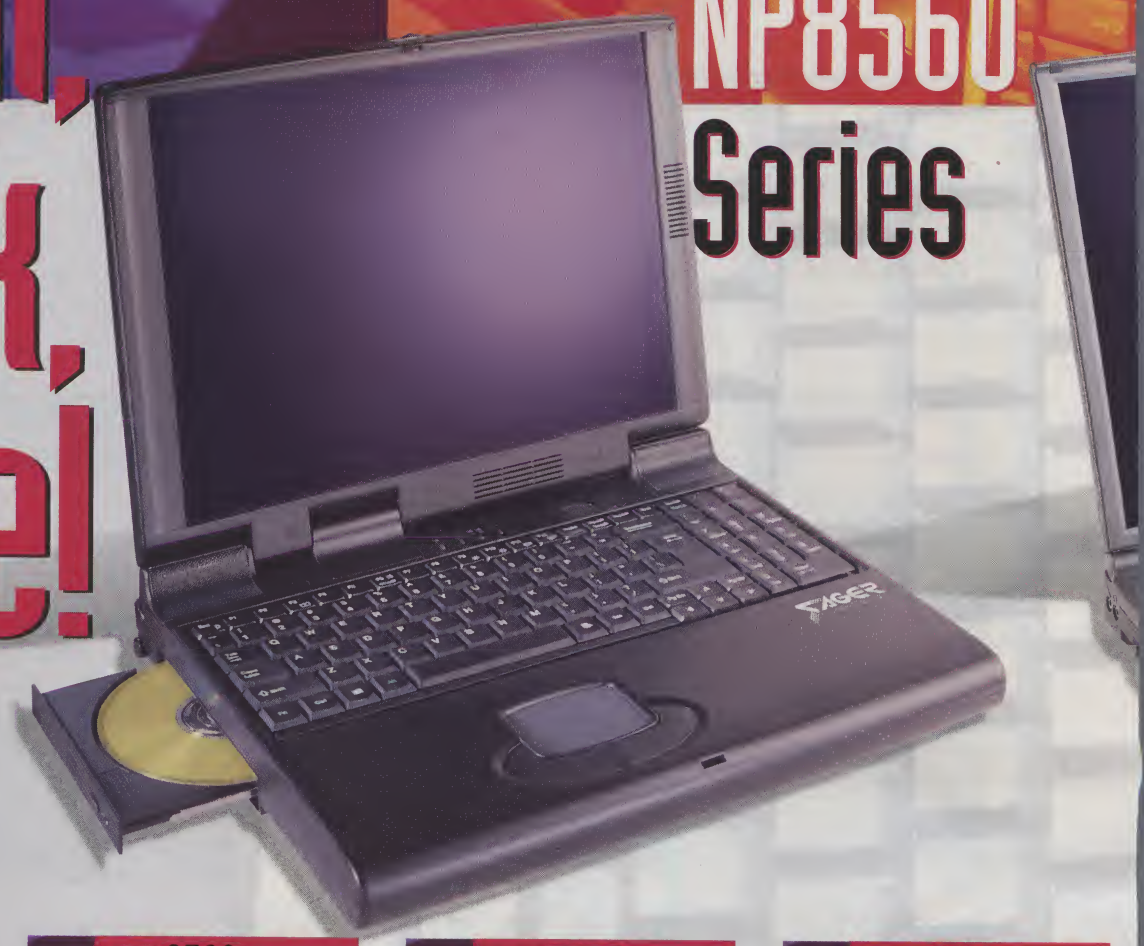
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- 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive[2]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 15-Cell 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- 102-Key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad
- IEEE-1394 Port
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with opt. Iomega® Zip Drive or 2nd HDD
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port & 1 Video-In Port
- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 9.5 lbs with Battery
- 14.0"w x 11.0"d x 2.2"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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np 8560 c

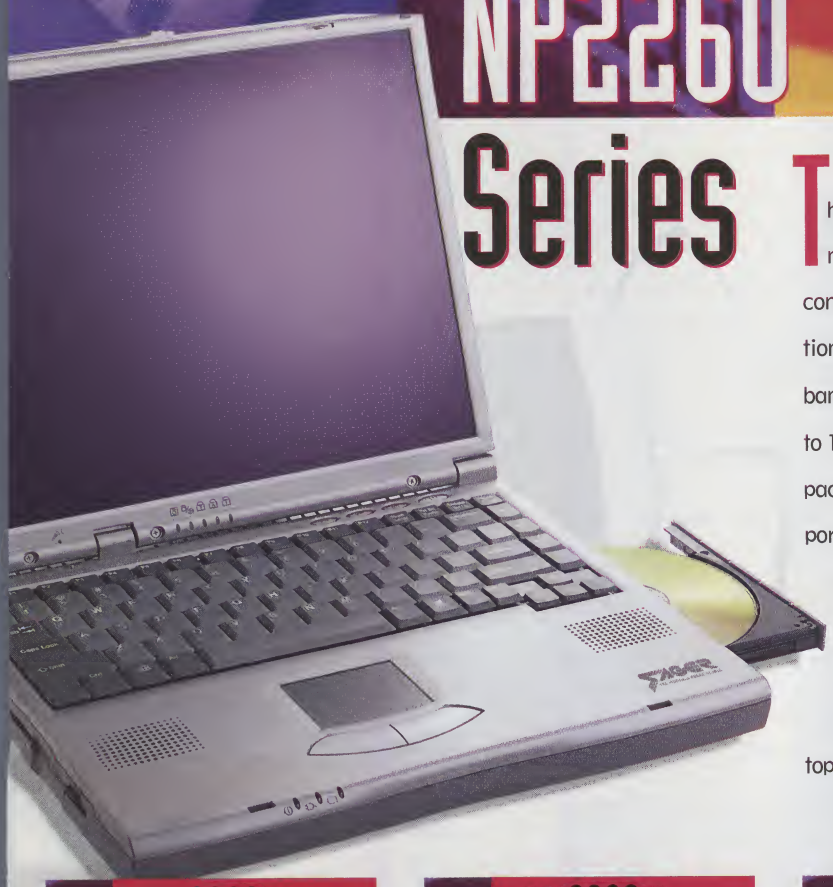
- 15.0" SXGA+ Active Matrix Display
- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 866MHz
- 16MB Video Memory
- 128MB 133MHz SDRAM
- 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 24X Max.CD-ROM Drive[1]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 15-Cell 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- 102-Key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad
- IEEE-1394 Port
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with opt. Iomega® Zip Drive or 2nd HDD
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port & 1 Video-In Port
- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
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- 14.0"w x 11.0"d x 2.2"h
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np 2260 v

- 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 1.0GHz
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
- 256MB 133MHz SDRAM
- 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive[2]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 3 Hot-Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
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- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
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- Deluxe Carrying Case
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- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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np 2260 s

- 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 866MHz
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
- 128MB 133MHz SDRAM
- 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive[2]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 3 Hot-Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 IEEE-1394 Port and 1 TV-out Port
- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 7.0 lbs with Battery
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- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$1545

np 2260 c

- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 866MHz
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
- 128MB 133MHz SDRAM
- 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive[1]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 3 Hot-Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 IEEE-1394 Port and 1 TV-out Port
- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 7.0 lbs with Battery
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- Numeric Keypad
- USB Video-Camera
- Secondary Hard Disk Drive (NP8560)

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intel inside
pentium® III

DESKTOPS

ATLAS MICRO AS5000

Let a Duron Do Your Heavy Lifting

ZDNet BEST BUY

UNTIL RECENTLY, ENTRY-LEVEL COMPUTERS WERE LOW-COST solutions typically priced around $1,000 that usually sat at the bottom of the performance scale. Thanks to AMD's 850MHz Duron processor, systems such as Atlas Micro Logistic's AS5000 can now offer major performance without taking a monster bite out of your wallet. Using the low-cost Duron means there's room in the AS5000's price to accommodate a 17-inch monitor, a DVD-ROM drive, a real graphics card, and much more than the usual two-cans-and-a-string that pass for speakers with most entry-level systems.

The AS5000's Business Winstone 2001 score of 29.9 is about 13 percent lower than what we've seen from equivalent 850MHz Pentium III systems, but with those computers costing anywhere from 20 to 30 percent more, we'll take the AS5000 easily. Its 100 frames-per-second result on our Quake III Arena testing means you won't need to sneak out if you want to play some 3D games.



We were a little disappointed at not finding a CD-RW drive in the AS5000, but Atlas Micro will add one for less than $150, depending on the drive model you select. If you can't create audio CDs, you can certainly play them through the 12x DVD drive and listen to them on the Altec Lansing ATP3 speakers. The ATP3 features a pair of stiletto satellites each equipped with two 1.1-inch full-range drivers and a down-firing 3-inch mid/bass driver. The 6.5-inch subwoofer driver adds 18 watts of bass, bringing the ATP3 to a full 30 watts of output. That's not going to rattle the windows, but it does wrap you in some very nice sound—and that's one of the key ingredients for a good DVD experience. The Creative Labs Sound Blaster PCI 3D 128V sound card also boosts the sound quality, overriding the integrated AC97 audio on the motherboard. AC97 audio is fine for less demanding applications, but it's not ideal for DVD playback.

The monitor is the other side of the DVD equation. Atlas Micro offers a house-brand monitor, the Cyclone 7a. A 17-inch display with a 0.27mm dot pitch, it does video and graphics very well. Though it's rated for a resolution of 1,280 by 1,024, we really wouldn't exceed 1,024 by 768 on this or any 17-inch monitor. Things look too small and indistinct in the monitor's 16-inch viewing area at those higher resolutions.

Although the AS5000 doesn't have a tool-free case, it does have a simple three-screws-and-it's-out side panel. You'll need to be careful removing it because of the panel-mounted fan, but the panel does pull away enough to let you disconnect the fan for unfettered access to the interior. Two front-accessible 5.25-inch drive bays, one internal 5.25-inch bay, and an internal 3.5-inch bay are available for expansion. Atlas Micro includes a USB PCI card that adds two additional USB ports to the rear of the case, for a total of four, but we would have preferred an IEEE 1394 (FireWire) interface instead. Two PCI slots remain unfilled, and two of the three PC133 SDRAM sockets are free. The Biostar M7VKB motherboard uses the Via KT133 chipset, which supports up to 1.5GB of RAM. The hard drive is similarly robust, a 30GB, 7,200rpm Quantum Fireball AS model.

What really sets the AS5000 apart from competing systems is its use of fast, better-than-average components with the relatively inexpensive (though still powerful) Duron processor. This combination not only complements the processor for maximum advantage, but also results in a system that's much more capable and pleasant to use for a variety of tasks, from word processing and Web surfing to game playing and watching DVDs.

The Atlas Micro AS5000 comes with a standard three-year parts-and-labor warranty, excluding the CPU, memory, and motherboard, which are covered for one year. Repairs are handled through depot service, or you can purchase an optional onsite warranty. Technical support is toll-free but available only during business hours, so if you need the security of weekend or late-night support, you should probably look elsewhere. Still, for the budget buyer, this system serves up an excellent combination of performance and value.

—Bill O'Brien

EDITORS' RATING 7.0

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	7
EASE OF USE	7
FEATURES	7
PERFORMANCE	7
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	6
VALUE	8

Entry-level price but major-league performance; graphics and sound powered by cards, not motherboard-integrated components; good speakers with subwoofer

No CD-RW drive; no IEEE 1394 (FireWire) ports

SYSTEM: Atlas Micro AS5000
COMPANY:
Atlas Micro Logistic
City of Industry, CA
800-336-6898, 626-336-6899
www.buy-atlas.com
AS TESTED: 850MHz AMD Duron; 128MB 133MHz SDRAM; 30GB hard drive; 12x DVD-ROM drive; eVGA nVidia GeForce2 Pro graphics card with 32MB DDR SDRAM; 17-inch Atlas Micro Cyclone 7a monitor; Creative Labs Sound Blaster PCI 3D 128V sound card; Altec Lansing ATP3 speakers; Motorola 56kbps modem; Windows Me; Sun StarOffice 5.2
DIRECT PRICE: $999

ZDNet Price It!™ 34467

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DESKTOPS

DELL DIMENSION 4100

Entering a New Dimension of Value

ZDNet BEST BUY

DELL COMPUTER HAS ANOTHER WINNER WITH ITS $1,549 1GHZ Dimension 4100 home system. Although not a flashy Pentium 4 PC or a zippy new Athlon system, it provides solid all-around performance for a reasonable price.

Quality components such as a 7,200rpm ATA/100 hard drive and an nVidia GeForce2-based graphics board help the 4100 earn honors as the fastest 1GHz Pentium III/Windows Me-based system we've seen to date. It's even faster than some 1GHz Athlon systems we've tested configured with budget nVidia Vanta graphics cards. As you'd expect, however, the 4100 is slower than the best 1.1GHz or faster Athlon PCs.

Although its 20GB Maxtor hard drive isn't gargantuan, it's sufficiently capacious to hold plenty of applications and a lot of data. Because the 4100 lacks a removable-storage drive, we recommend adding a CD-RW drive for data backup and file sharing (a $199 option, though Dell sometimes offers older drives—such as 8x models—for free upgrades as part of special promotions). For the graphics subsystem, Dell chose the nVidia GeForce2 MX 4x AGP card with 32MB of RAM—an all-around good performer. It's not the fastest 3D-graphics card out there, but it's certainly no slouch, so you can expect a decent 3D-gaming experience from the system. Our review unit contained a single 128MB DIMM, leaving a second memory socket open for expansion. The 4100 series uses Intel's 815E chipset, which supports a maximum of 512MB of PC133 SDRAM.



We liked the system's hefty fan and large plastic duct that together provide fresh air for the 1GHz CPU. Adequate cooling is imperative for maximizing the longevity of system components, and, in that regard, the 4100 is one cool customer. Dell's tool-free minitower case leaves ample airspace for proper cooling, and it also offers adequate room for expansion. The Intel motherboard has five PCI slots, three occupied by a Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value card, a U.S. Robotics V.90 telephony modem, and a 3Com EtherLink XL 10/100 network card.

The 16x NEC DVD-ROM drive in our review unit operated flawlessly with DVD discs, but it whirred noticeably while reading data and music CD-ROMs. If the system is placed under a desk, the noise is tolerable, but it's distracting with the tower on the desktop. Combined with InterVideo's WinDVD 2000 software decoder, the drive delivered flawless video performance and DVD playback, even on high-bit-rate segments of movies. The three-piece Altec Lansing ACS340 speaker system pumped out convincing sound despite its diminutive satellites. The ACS340 isn't a surround-sound system, but it renders solid stereo imaging with bass galore. Surround-sound speakers are available for an extra $30, and digital THX-certified surround-sound speakers for an additional $120.

Dell's M991 monitor is a basic 19-inch model with a 17.9-inch viewable area. Its onscreen menu offers basic controls, no more. Our review unit exhibited some red/green convergence trouble and moiré problems, which we were able to correct—though not eliminate entirely—using the onscreen controls. In general, the M991's color rendition, brightness, contrast, and geometry are good and should please most users. Customers requiring a better 19-inch display can opt for a Trinitron-based monitor for $150 more.

We disliked Dell's QuietKey keyboard, finding its touch uncomfortable. Also, it lacks the Internet and multimedia keys found on many keyboards today. If your computing plans include much word processing, we recommend upgrading to one of the Microsoft keyboards when you purchase the system.

The system comes loaded with Norton AntiVirus and Microsoft Works Suite 2001. The latter contains Word 2000, Works 6.0, Money 2001, Picture It Publishing 2001, Encarta, and Streets & Trips. This is not a premium package, but it's enough for a fair start.

Dell backs the Dimension 4100 with a three-year warranty, with in-home service the first year. You can boost the in-home service to three years for an additional $99. One year of MSN Internet service is included at no charge, as well.

For the money, the Dell Dimension 4100 represents a good value. It's fast and beefy enough to blaze through most any office application, and then some. If you gotta get a gigahertz machine, you'll find the 4100 a solid buy.

—Matthew Klare

EDITORS' RATING 7.8

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	8
EASE OF USE	7
FEATURES	7
PERFORMANCE	8
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	9
VALUE	8

Excellent performance; room to grow; good value

Poor keyboard; no CD-RW or Zip drive; noisy DVD-ROM drive; lacks surround sound

SYSTEM: Dell Dimension 4100

COMPANY: Dell Computer
Round Rock, TX
800-388-8542, 512-338-4400
www.dell.com

AS TESTED: *1GHz Pentium* III; 128MB PC133 SDRAM; 20GB hard drive; 16x DVD-ROM drive; nVidia GeForce2 MX 4x AGP graphics card with 32MB SDRAM; 19-inch Samsung M991 monitor; Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value sound card; Altec Lansing ACS340 speakers; U.S. Robotics V.90 PCI modem; 3Com EtherLink XL 10/100 network card; Windows Me; Microsoft Works Suite 2001; additional software

DIRECT PRICE: $1,549

ZDNet Price It!™ 34477

For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

DESKTOPS

APPLE IMAC SPECIAL EDITION

The iMac Is Back With Flair to Spare

WHAT ABOUT THE IMAC SPECIAL EDITION MERITS THE DESCRIPTION "special"? Partly, the contents of the sleek case: Component-wise, the Special Edition is the most pumped-up iMac yet. But it's the case itself—available in several eye-catching (some might say garish) hues and patterns—that truly sets Apple's latest iMac apart.

The Special Edition is one of three new iMac configurations. The $899 low-end iMac, available in indigo only, ships with a 400MHz G3, 64MB of RAM, a 10GB hard drive, and a CD-ROM drive. The $1,199 midrange model, available in indigo, Flower Power, or Blue Dalmatian, packs a 500MHz G3, 64MB of RAM, a 20GB hard drive, and an internal 8x/4x/24x CD-RW drive. Finally, the $1,499 high-end iMac Special Edition runs on a 600MHz G3 and is available in graphite, as well as Flower Power and Blue Dalmatian. It ships standard with 128MB of RAM, a 40GB hard drive, and an 8x/4x/24x CD-RW drive. All three models include 10/100mbps Ethernet, a 56kbps modem, two USB ports, and two IEEE 1394 (FireWire) ports. Apple no longer offers an option for a DVD-ROM drive.



Though it's no match for a dual-processor G4 tower, the 600MHz Special Edition is a solid performer. On ZDNet Labs' Photoshop test, performance was comparable to that of a 600MHz Pentium III notebook. Keep in mind that Apple doesn't market the iMac as a graphics workstation, but rather as an all-around consumer-level machine. In everyday use, the Special Edition feels responsive and quickly launches applications such as Quicken 2001 and AppleWorks (both standard issue on the entire iMac line).

The Special Edition comes equipped with 16MB ATI Rage 128 Ultra AGP graphics, more than sufficient for just about any of today's 3D-intensive games or graphics applications. Impressive Harman Kardon Odyssey speakers built into the case deliver sound that's full, rich, and not at all tinny, even at top volume and without a subwoofer. If you seek even beefier sound, a matching subwoofer, the Harman Kardon iSub, is a $59 option. All iMacs ship with Apple's consumer video-editing package, iMovie 2. If you own a digital video camera, the Special Edition can serve as a capable entry-level video-editing system.

Though most PC manufacturers have been offering CD-RW drives as system options for more than a year, Apple only recently began doing so. More interesting than the Special Edition's 8x/4x/24x drive itself, however, is the CD-burning software incorporated into the OS. You create the CD you want to burn right on the desktop without ever launching a program. After inserting a blank CD in the drive and choosing the Standard data format, you're presented with a CD-R icon on the desktop. Simply drag the data you wish to burn to the disc icon, as if you were copying to removable media like a Zip or Jaz disk. You can move data all at once or piecemeal. You have the option to remove data you don't want to burn, and to move and rename folders already on the disc. When you're ready, select Burn CD from the Special menu, and disc creation begins—even in the background with other applications running, although not without a significant performance hit to those apps. You'll need a standalone CD-authoring application such as Roxio's Toast for advanced features like multisession burns, however.

If you already own an iMac, there's no major reason to envy this next generation, unless you really crave a spotted Blue Dalmatian case. Because Apple's CD-burning software, Disc Burner 1.0.1, now supports a long list of third-party CD-RW drives, you can get the same disc-making functionality with an external CD-RW drive and the iMac you already have.

But if you're considering an iMac for the first time, the Apple iMac Special Edition is an able choice, albeit a little pricey. It's fast enough for almost any task, and comes with a substantial hard drive and adequate RAM. It's ready for OS X if you are, and it offers a capable software bundle that handles word processing, Web browsing, and faxing well. Plus, Apple's claim of 10 minutes or less to get your iMac from the box to the Internet is true, whether you choose an EarthLink dial-up account (for which software is included) or an Ethernet-based broadband solution. These factors, plus the system's compact size, make it an excellent choice for a non-techie student looking for a dorm-room computer or as a first system for a child or parent.

—Barry Lubov

EDITORS' RATING 6.7

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	7
EASE OF USE	8
FEATURES	7
PERFORMANCE	7
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	5
VALUE	6

👍 Fast and responsive; easy CD burning; good software bundle; large hard drive

👎 Somewhat pricey; CD-RW drive could be faster; no onsite-warranty option

SYSTEM: Apple iMac Special Edition
COMPANY: Apple Computer Cupertino, CA 800-692-7753, 408-996-1010 ***www.apple.com***
AS TESTED: 600MHz PowerPC G3; 128MB SDRAM; 40GB hard drive; 8x/4x/24x CD-RW drive; ATI Rage 128 Ultra AGP graphics with 16MB SDRAM; integrated sound; integrated Harman Kardon Odyssey speakers; 56kbps modem; 10/100mbps Ethernet; Mac OS 9.1; AppleWorks 6; additional software
DIRECT PRICE: $1,499

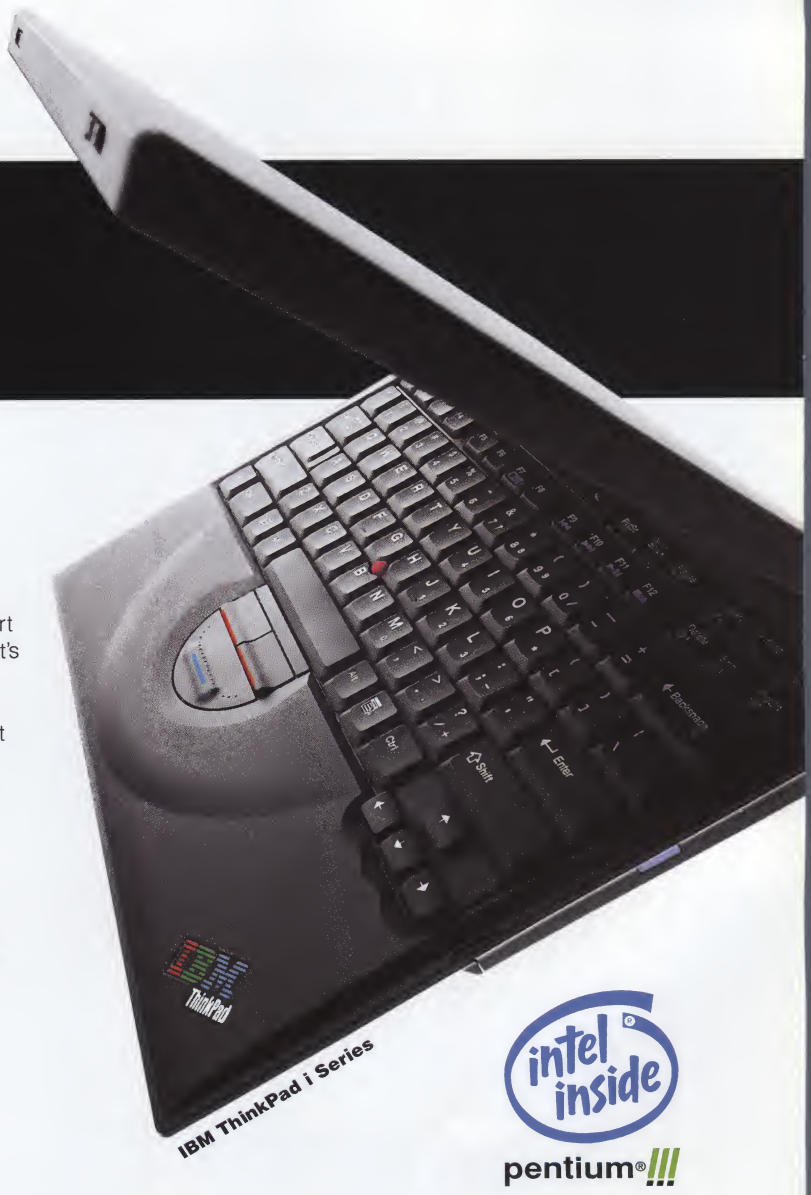
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SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 72

IBM

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[1]MHz/GHz only measures microprocessor internal clock speed; many factors affect application performance. For mobile Intel Pentium III processors featuring SpeedStep technology, this denotes maximum performance mode; battery optimization mode is approximately 80% of maximum performance mode. [2]System includes chipset that uses some main memory for the video subsystem. The amount used will vary depending on video mode and may be as much as 8MB. Thus, accessible system memory is less than the amount stated. [3]GB equals one billion bytes when referring to storage capacity; accessible capacity may be less. [4]CD-RW, DVD-ROM and CD-ROM drives list a variable read rate. CD-RW write and re-write speeds vary and list only the maximum possible. Actual CD-RW, DVD-ROM and CD-ROM speeds will vary and are often less than the maximum possible. The read and write results of the CD-RW drive depend on the quality and characteristics of the CD-R and CD-RW media used. Poor results may be obtained with some media suppliers. [5]Some software may differ from its retail version (if available), and may not include user manuals or all program functionality. For non-IBM software, applicable third-party licenses may apply. Warranty, service and support for non-IBM products, if any, are provided by third parties, not IBM. IBM makes no representations or warranties regarding non-IBM products. [6]Includes battery and optional travel bezel instead of standard optical drive in Ultrabay 2000, if applicable; weight may vary due to vendor components, manufacturing process and options. [7]For terms and conditions or copies of IBM's Statement of Limited Warranty, call 1 800 772-2227 in the US and in Canada call 1 800 426-2255. Telephone support may be subject to additional charges. For warranties including onsite labor, customer may be asked certain diagnostic questions before a technician is sent. Warranty does not include ThinkPad battery, which is covered by a separate, one-year limited warranty. [8]Pricing shown is price available from IBM directly. Reseller prices may vary. IBM price does not include tax or shipping and is subject to change without notice. [9]SuccessLease is offered by third-party providers of business financing approved by IBM Global Financing. SuccessLease terms and conditions provided by the third party. Featured



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pentium® III

IBM ThinkPad A22e

Desktop alternative

Mobile Intel® Pentium® III processor 850MHz
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Ultrabay™ 2000 24X-10X CD-ROM
Mini PCI modem
8MB S3 Savage IX8 graphics
Microsoft Windows 98 Second Edition
Lotus SmartSuite Millennium License
3-hr.[11] Li-Ion battery
ThinkPad Button
ThinkLight™ keyboard light
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IBM ThinkPad A22m

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Ultraportable

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64MB SDRAM
10GB upgradable hard drive
Mini PCI modem
4MB SGRAM ATI Rage Mobility M graphics
Windows 98 Second Edition
Lotus SmartSuite Millennium License
2.8-hr. Li-Ion battery
ThinkPad Button
ThinkLight keyboard light
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Part #266241U

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IBM

(!)

IBM ThinkPad A22e

Desktop alternative

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Ultrabay 2000 24X-10X[4] CD-ROM
Mini PCI modem
8MB S3 Savage IX8 graphics
Microsoft® Windows® 98 Second Edition
Easy Launch buttons
ThinkPad Button
3-hr.[5] Li-Ion battery
5.6 lbs.[6] travel weight
1-year limited warranty[7]
Part #265545U

$1,899[8]

SuccessLease™ for Small Business $67/MO.[9], 36 MOS.

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(Part #02K8667) $179 or $6/month

IBM ThinkPad T22

Performance and portability

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128MB SDRAM • 20GB hard drive
Ultrabay 2000 8X-2X DVD-ROM
Mini PCI modem
8MB Savage IX8+ graphics
Windows 98 Second Edition
Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business[11]
Titanium Composite cover
ThinkPad Button
Long-life Li-Ion battery
4.8 lbs. travel weight
3-year limited warranty
Part #2647M2U

$3,069

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SWAPPABLE OPTIONS:

ThinkPad T Series Carrying Case[10]
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HARDWARE

OLYMPUS CAMEDIA C-2040 ZOOM

Smile for This Smooth Sharpshooter

ZDNet BEST BUY

OLYMPUS AMERICA'S $499 2.1-MEGAPIXEL Camedia C-2040 Zoom features today's fastest zoom lens (f1.8) in a camera of its class. Unless you're a bargain buyer, or a serious photographer looking for a semipro-level camera, it deserves a spot on your short list.

The camera shoots bursts of between 3 and 37 frames at up to 1.6 frames per second (fps), depending on compression mode, before having to write to its SmartMedia card. Uncompressed TIFF file output and four JPEG-compression modes can be combined with a variety of resolutions, and a panorama mode stitches frames together. The C-2040 also can capture 15fps QuickTime Motion-JPEG video, though not the sound.

A compact design and well-placed controls make operating the C-2040 easy. Despite its diminutive size, it offers full-program, aperture-priority, shutter-priority, and manual modes. It also performs auto-exposure bracketing and flash-exposure compensation. The C-2040's default metering uses an averaging algorithm, but spot metering is available too, even in macro mode.



Image quality is excellent for its class. Test images showed a broad tonal range with good detail in shadow areas. The C-2040 consistently delivered photos with sharp focus, smooth color rendition, and good exposure in natural light. You can use the camera's 1.8-inch LCD when shooting at close range.

The camera comes with disposable lithium batteries, which Olympus rates for about 400 shots. The C-2040 accepts a variety of battery types, but it's too bad that Olympus didn't include rechargeable cells. A remote control is also an optional accessory.

Overall, the Olympus Camedia C-2040 Zoom is a likeable little camera. Though its tangle of menus can be intimidating, shooting and transferring images using the supplied USB cable and Camedia software was drag-and-drop easy. Best of all, the photos looked great.

—Matthew Klare

EDITORS' RATING 7.8

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	8
EASE OF USE	6
FEATURES	9
IMAGE QUALITY	8
PERFORMANCE	8
VALUE	8

Fast lens; accepts a variety of battery types

Complex menu system; only an 8MB SmartMedia card included

PRODUCT: Olympus Camedia C-2040 Zoom
COMPANY: Olympus America
Melville, NY
800-622-6372, 631-844-5000
www.olympusamerica.com
MFR. EST. PRICE: $499

ZDNet Price It!™ 34479

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DAZZLE HOLLYWOOD DV-BRIDGE

Lights, Camera, Digitize!

TAKE YOUR OLD ANALOG VHS TAPES AND CONVERT them into digital video (DV) with Dazzle's $299 Hollywood DV-Bridge. The Dazzle's main hardware component is a breakout box that sits between your PC and your camcorder, television, or VCR, and works with your Mac's or PC's IEEE 1394 (FireWire) port. It lets you edit in DV without having to buy a new digital camcorder. The only other product that offers similar capability is Sony's DVMC-DA2, and it costs about $200 more.

The hardware alone is worth the price of admission; the included software is another story, however. MainConcept's MainActor editing software is an incredible resource hog. We tested the software using a 400MHz Celeron PC with 128MB of RAM, and, though MainActor ran, it dropped frames and caused our system to freeze repeatedly. MGI's included VideoWave 4 SE worked well for capturing and playing back video files, but it has a clunky storyboard interface.



We tested MainActor using a variety of DV-capture cards, from Pinnacle Systems' Studio DV and DV500 cards to ADS Technologies' Pyro and AVerMedia's AVerDV cards. Throughout, MainActor was frustrating to use. During repeated installations on multiple systems, it deleted or corrupted Microsoft's DV Camera and VCR driver, which MainActor needs to capture video. Neither the 20-page user's guide, MainActor's help files, nor Dazzle's Web site provided any help.

On a positive note, the hardware works well with Ulead's VideoStudio 4.0 and Adobe Premiere 6, two applications that are more robust than either of the bundled programs.

The DV-Bridge doesn't include an IEEE 1394 card in the box, a major omission. If you're using a Mac or PC with an IEEE 1394 interface already built in, however, just attach the DV-Bridge, install the software, and you're ready to go.

Though the Dazzle Hollywood DV-Bridge provides a low-cost analog-to-digital solution, its awkward software and lack of an IEEE 1394 card are drawbacks.

—Tim Liebe

EDITORS' RATING 7.2

RATED 1 TO 10

FEATURES	7
LOOK AND FEEL	8
PERFORMANCE	8
USABILITY	5
VALUE	8

Inexpensive solution for digital-video experimenters

Poor software bundle; no IEEE 1394 card included

PRODUCT: Dazzle Hollywood DV-Bridge
COMPANY: Dazzle
Fremont, CA
888-212-8045, 510-360-2300
www.dazzle.com
LIST PRICE: $299

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IBM NetVista A20i

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[1]MHz/GHz only measures microprocessor internal clock speed; many factors affect application performance. For mobile Intel Pentium III processors featuring SpeedStep technology, this denotes maximum performance mode; battery optimization mode is approximately 80% of maximum performance mode. [2]System includes chipset that uses some main memory for the video subsystem. The amount used will vary depending on video mode and may be as much as 8MB. Thus, accessible system memory is less than the amount stated. [3]GB equals one billion bytes when referring to storage capacity; accessible capacity may be less. [4]Variable read rate. Actual speeds will vary and are often less than the maximum possible. [5]Some software may differ from its retail version (if available), and may not include user manuals or all program functionality. For non-IBM software, applicable third-party licenses may apply. Warranty, service and support for non-IBM products, if any, are provided by third parties, not IBM. IBM makes no representations or warranties regarding non-IBM products. [6]For terms and conditions or copies of IBM's Statement of Limited Warranty, call 1 800 772-2227 in the US and in Canada call 1 800 426-2255. Telephone support may be subject to additional charges. For warranties including onsite labor, customer may be asked certain diagnostic questions before a technician is sent. Warranty does not include ThinkPad battery, which is covered by a separate, one-year limited warranty. [7]Pricing shown is price available from IBM directly; reseller prices may vary. IBM price does not include tax or shipping and is subject to change without notice. [8]SuccessLease is offered by third-party providers of business financing approved by IBM Global Financing. SuccessLease terms and conditions provided by the third party. Featured monthly lease payments include prespecified purchase option at end of lease, to qualified business customers only, installing in the US. Documentation fee and first month's payment due at lease signing; taxes are additional. Offer may be withdrawn or changed without notice. Options cannot be leased separately. [9]The UPS System is distributed and sold by Tripp Lite. The ThinkPad Carrying Case is distributed and sold by Port/Targus. IBM, the IBM logo and IBM trade dress are owned by International Business Machines Corporation and are used under license from IBM. IBM does not manufacture these products and provides no warranty or support for these products. Please contact the respective manufacturers for all questions/comments and service or support related to these products. [10]These model numbers achieved a ZD BatteryMark™ Version 3.0 or 4.0 Battery Rundown Time of the times shown above. This test was performed *without independent verification by ZD; ZD makes no* representations or warranties as to these test results. BatteryMark™ is a trademark of ZD Inc. in the US and other countries. A description of the environment under which the test was performed is available at *ibm.com/pc/ww/thinkpad/batterylife.html* Battery life (and recharge times) will vary based on many factors including screen brightness, applications, features, power management, battery conditioning and other customer preferences. [11]Includes battery. Weight may vary due to vendor components, manufacturing process and options. IBM reserves the right to alter product offerings and specifications at any time, without notice. IBM cannot be responsible for photographic or typographic errors. SuccessLease and all IBM product names are registered trademarks or trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. Lotus and SmartSuite are registered trademarks of Lotus Development Corporation, an IBM company. Intel, the Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and Celeron and SpeedStep are trademarks of Intel Corporation. Microsoft and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Other company, product and service names may be trademarks or service marks of others. ©2001 IBM Corp. All rights reserved.

HARDWARE

PIONEER DVR-A03

You Can Be a DVD-Burning Pioneer

DVD-R HAS ARRIVED, THANKS TO PIONEER'S $995 DVR-A03, the first DVD recorder under $1,000. This internal ATAPI drive can read and write to CD-R, CD-RW, DVD-R, and DVD-RW media, and can burn a DVD-R disc that will play in your DVD player.

Be forewarned: You're not getting a speed demon here. Software and firmware immaturity yielded modest results. Currently, the fastest 2x burns require a complete test burn first (like in the early days of CD-R), resulting in effective 1x speeds.

Don't even think about copying prerecorded DVDs. The DVR-A03 is unable to write to the section of a DVD disc that holds a DVD movie's copyright, region-encoding, and encryption information. Also, because the drive only writes to DVD-R for General, or DVD-R(G), media, it can't create master discs for mass replication.

For our tests, we used Pinnacle Systems' Studio DV video editor and Sonic Solution's DVDit authoring software, both of which are included in new Compaq systems that come with this drive. (Pioneer will bundle Prassi's PrimoDVD 2.0 premastering software, Sonic's MyDVD video-authoring software, CyberLink's PowerDVD 2.0 player, and a blank DVD-R(G) disc with shipping versions of the DVR-A03.) We brought digital-camcorder footage into Studio DV, created MPEG-2 movies, imported them into DVDit, created navigation menus, and burned the discs.

We then tested the discs in every DVD player in sight. Our discs played in all the latest players from Denon, Panasonic, Pioneer, Sony, Toshiba, and Yamaha. A couple of last-generation models from Toshiba and Mitsubishi didn't recognize any of our discs, however. Expect other older players to have similar trouble.



Though the rewritable capabilities of the drive worked as advertised, you'll want to make sure the rewritable media you buy is version 1.1 or later. Version 1.0 media will not play in DVD players.

Definitely not cheap nor without constraints, the Pioneer DVR-A03 is still a good first step in enabling digital video for everyone. *—Jeff Sauer*

EDITORS' RATING 8.0

RATED 1 TO 10

FEATURES	9
INSTALLATION	9
PERFORMANCE	7
VALUE	7

+ First consumer DVD-R drive; can burn CD-R, CD-RW, DVD-R, and DVD-RW discs
− Slow write times; expensive

PRODUCT: Pioneer DVR-A03
COMPANY:
Pioneer New Media Technologies
Long Beach, CA
800-421-1404, 310-952-2111
www.pioneerelectronics.com
LIST PRICE: $995

ZDNet Price It!™ 34472

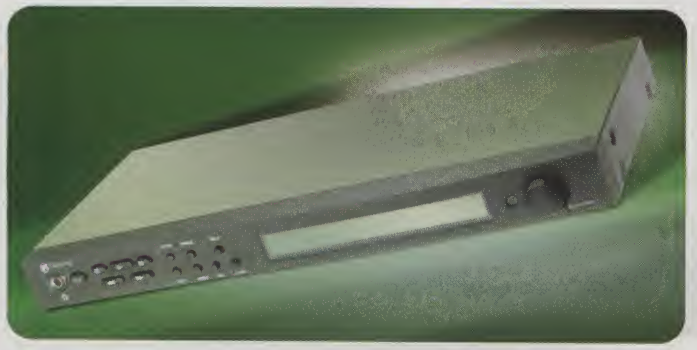
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GATEWAY CONNECTED MUSIC PLAYER

Rock Your House With Digital Audio

GATEWAY'S $299 CONNECTED MUSIC PLAYER LETS you listen to your PC's music library throughout your home. Whether your music collection is on a single PC or several, this clever component gathers it all up via your home network and lets you play your favorite tunes anywhere, even on an ordinary home stereo.

The unit, actually a Voyetra Turtle Beach AudioTron sold under the Gateway brand, comes in a 17-inch-wide black case and looks like a CD player. Powered by a Cirrus Logic EP 7312 ARM processor running a Windows CE kernel, it's compatible with Windows 98, Me, and 2000. We tested the Player using a Windows Me PC, a stereo component system, and Cambridge SoundWorks and Bose Acoustimass Multimedia speaker sets.



The Player is reasonably simple to configure, but you'll need an Ethernet or HomePNA network setup to use it. Gateway provides the network and audio cables. The unit has no built-in amplifier, so you'll need to use it with self-powered speakers or a stereo receiver.

When you fire up the Player, it searches for shared folders over the network and captures a listing of digital-audio files and playlists in MP3, WMA, WAV, M3U, and PLS formats. Once it compiles the playlist, the device works like a regular CD player. The remote control mirrors the panel adjustments and adds numeric buttons for creating playlist groups.

The music quality was good, with no audible deterioration. You can adjust bass and treble, but the unit lacks an equalizer.

A few complaints: Although the Player has a RAM buffer, it doesn't have an onboard storage device, so your PC must be left on to feed the music. In addition, it doesn't automatically refresh its playlists, and you can't control the unit directly from your PC.

Gateway says it's looking into ways to improve the Connected Music Player's flexibility. In the meantime, the unit competes ably with its archrival, Dell's Digital Audio Receiver. *—Gene Steinberg*

EDITORS' RATING 6.8

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	6
EASE OF USE	6
FEATURES	6
PERFORMANCE	7
SOUND QUALITY	9
VALUE	7

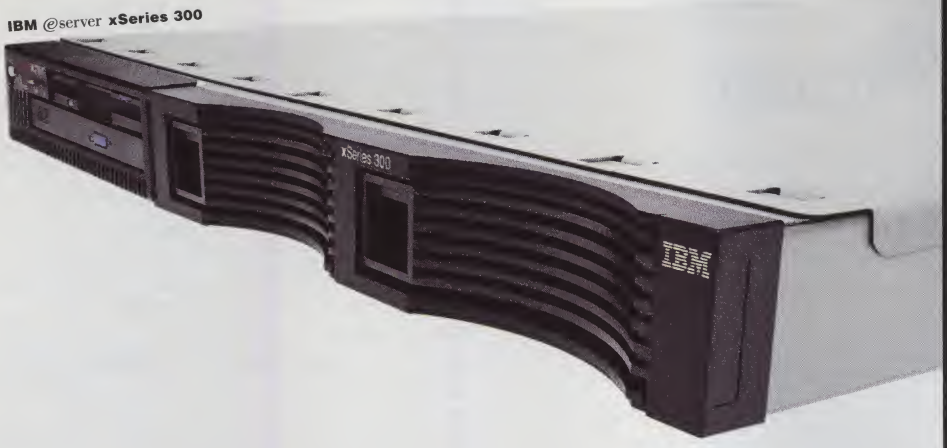
+ Transparent sound; CD-player-like controls; convenient remote
− No onboard storage for tunes; PC must stay on to run player; doesn't automatically update playlists

PRODUCT:
Gateway Connected Music Player
COMPANY: Gateway
San Diego, CA
800-846-4208, 858-799-3401
www.gateway.com
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HARDWARE

KDS VS-190I

Squinting to See The Big Picture

AT FIRST GLANCE, IT SEEMS A STUNNING VALUE: KDS U.S.A.'s 19-inch VS-190i CRT monitor sells for an attractive estimated price of just $269. Look closer, however, and you'll see that this monitor's low price isn't enough to make it a solid buy.

The VS-190i's low-end status shows in the flat-square tube the monitor is built around. The screen has a noticeable curvature compared with truly flat CRTs. Also, the monitor measures 19.1 inches deep, barely leaving enough room for a keyboard on a 30-inch-deep desktop.

Although the VS-190i can display an image at 1,600 by 1,200, that image has major flaws. On our DisplayMate tests (courtesy of DisplayMate Technologies, ***www.displaymate.com***) at 1,600 by 1,200 and 66Hz, the screen was hopelessly blurry. It looked better at 60Hz, but the low refresh rate produced noticeable flicker. We also saw a color-tracking problem, with some gray levels showing green tints.



The image improved at 1,280 by 1,024 and 75Hz, but serious flaws were still evident. DisplayMate showed moiré patterns we couldn't remove using the moiré control, as well as misregistration of colors.

Other problems appeared in both DisplayMate and standard business applications. During Video Bandwidth testing, the VS-190i had difficulty displaying black lines correctly, especially at 85Hz. The VS-190i also fared poorly on the Screen Regulation test, with the outside edge of the image jumping noticeably as a white block turned on and off. This effect shows in Windows if you restore or minimize a partial-screen window against the desktop background.

If you use demanding applications such as desktop publishing or graphics programs, or you often need to run your display at 1,600 by 1,200, skip the KDS VS-190i and invest in a more expensive monitor with better image quality. But if saving money is more important than image quality, the VS-190i might be worth a look.

—M. David Stone

EDITORS' RATING 5.0

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	5
FEATURES	4
IMAGE QUALITY	4
SETUP	6
VALUE	6

Inexpensive; 1,600 by 1,200 resolution handy for occasional use

Marginal image quality, even at 1,280 by 1,024; obvious screen curvature compared with truly flat CRTs; 19.1-inch depth

PRODUCT: KDS VS-190i
COMPANY: KDS U.S.A.
Garden Grove, CA
800-283-1311, 714-379-5599
www.kdsusa.com
MFR. EST. PRICE: $269

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NETWORKS

D-LINK DWL-920 11MBPS USB WIRELESS HOME NETWORK KIT

Networking Without Cable Clutter

ZDNet BEST BUY

NETWORKING KITS ARE THE EASIEST AND LEAST expensive way to share an Internet connection and other resources among PCs in the home. One of the latest examples, the $499 D-Link DWL-920 11Mbps USB Wireless Home Network Kit, is a flexible, simple wireless solution that includes an access point and two USB adapters.

The DWL-920 kit includes a DWL-1000AP access point that connects to your existing cable, DSL, or LAN connection, and two DWL-120 USB adapters, one of the first of their kind on the market. The USB connections allow the adapters to work with either desktops or notebooks, resulting in convenience and flexibility that PCI-card or PC Card solutions lack.



In real-world use, data-transfer performance levels for all 802.11b adapters vary only negligibly, so the real test for a wireless kit lies with its setup. We were disappointed with the DWL-920's documentation: The two manuals—one for the access point and another for the USB adapters—are mediocre, and no illustration shows how all the pieces are supposed to work together.

Nevertheless, the USB adapters are easy to install, with the factory configuration set to match the access point's factory configuration (that is, an infrastructure network versus an ad-hoc network) right out of the box. Plug your cable modem or DSL into the access point, and your two adapter-connected computers can instantly share your Internet connection as well. Plug the access point into an existing Ethernet LAN, and the bridging software lets the Ethernet and wireless LANs function together as one.

The DWL-920 may seem pricey, but its cost is comparable to those of much less flexible competitive solutions from Apple Computer, Netgear, and others that rely on PC Card and PCI-card adapters instead of USB. If you want fast, easy wireless networking in your home, the D-Link DWL-920 11Mbps USB Wireless Home Network Kit is an excellent choice.

—Neil Randall

EDITORS' RATING 7.5

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	8
FEATURES	8
INSTALLATION	7
VALUE	7

Flexible USB interface; factory settings will suit most users; consistent transfer speeds; built-in bridge to Ethernet LANs

Pricey for home and home office; substandard documentation

PRODUCT:
D-Link DWL-920 11Mbps USB Wireless Home Network Kit
COMPANY: D-Link Systems
Irvine, CA
800-326-1688, 949-790-5290
www.dlink.com
DIRECT PRICE: $499

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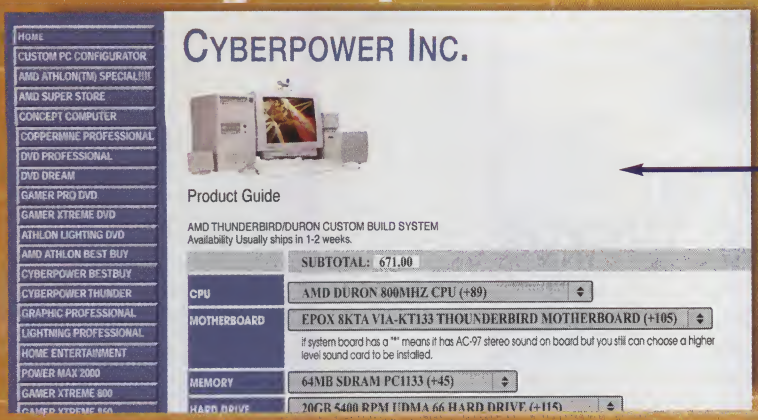
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AMD DURON 850	$ 569	CJ707
AMD DURON 800	$ 555	CJ708

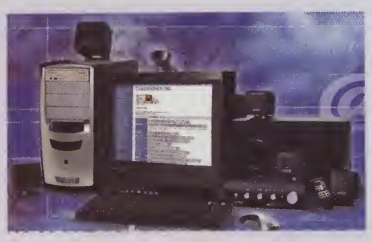
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MOBILE

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With a 1GHz Pentium III processor inside, the E500 performs solidly—not notably better or worse than its 1GHz notebook brethren, and about as well as an anemic desktop of the same processor class. Regardless, it's suitably zippy for a computer that weighs 8.3 pounds with its AC adapter and fits into your briefcase. Battery life tested at 3 hours and 40 minutes, notably good for a high-performance notebook; a second battery is optional.



A 15-inch SXGA+ display assumes partial responsibility for the heavy carry weight, as well as for the way that the cover protrudes over the bottom of the notebook. But the display is good and bright. You'll have no trouble using it at 50 percent brightness to save power. Though the natural display resolution is 1,400 by 1,050, you can drop down to 1,024 by 768 with no artifacts; anything below that appears distorted.

You can also bump up the resolution to 1,600 by 1,200. At that resolution, the display maintains the same display characteristics, such as font and icon sizes, as at 1,400 by 1,050, but it expands to a virtual desktop that you can pan around. This is more likely an incidental benefit than a design decision, but it's an elegant one. The ATI Rage Mobility-P chipset provides one of the main attractions of this unit: the ability to drive an external display at up to 1,600 by 1,200 at an eye-friendly refresh rate of 75Hz. Those of us who sit through endless PowerPoint presentations will appreciate this.

Touch-typists should be comfortable on the full-size keyboard. It's nice and responsive, though key travel felt a bit shallow. If you like touch pads, then you'll likely be happy with the E500's. The only drawback is that the touch pad's sensitivity, combined with its proximity to the keyboard, can result in mysterious cursor jumps and changes in window focus if you let any part of your hand drop onto it while typing.

The unit we tested came with a MultiBay CD-RW drive, which worked as expected and hot-swapped properly with the optional MultiBay DVD-ROM. DVDs run about as well on the E500 as on a desktop PC, though the audio quality of both DVDs and audio CDs was mediocre, with a fair amount of distortion at medium-to-high volume. The E500 has external volume controls but no way to play CDs while the computer is off.

From an IT standpoint, Compaq has so far delivered on its long-term plan for MultiBay support, carrying it through the entire Armada notebook line and even into the iPaq corporate desktops, which makes the notebook a good bet as a corporate investment. Compaq also bundles an array of management, diagnostic, and security utilities targeted at large-scale corporate deployment. The E500 comes standard with a one-year warranty, however, far short of the three years that are normal in the corporate-PC marketplace. (Five-year coverage is optional at extra cost.)

Our only other qualm is the high price of the docking-station options. But Compaq offers several variants (with and without NICs, for example), and the E500 comes outfitted with connectivity essentials, including two PC Card slots and a built-in floppy drive. For a unit this size, however, we were surprised to find only one USB port.

The Compaq Armada E500 delivers about 10 percent better performance across the board—and 10 percent less battery life—compared with the 850MHz version of the same notebook, for about the same difference in price. If you need the speed, the system offers a mix of power, expandability, and manageability that will please both corporate users and IT managers. Its big, bright display and solid graphics subsystem make it a natural for mobile presenters, while the MultiBay support and management utilities should win over the IT department.

—Lori Grunin

EDITORS' RATING 7.0

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	7
EASE OF USE	7
FEATURES	8
PERFORMANCE	7
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	7
VALUE	6

MultiBay support; can drive external monitor at 1,600 by 1,200 at 75Hz; long battery life

Touch pad too sensitive for its proximity to keyboard; expensive docking-station options; short one-year warranty

SYSTEM:
Compaq Armada E500

COMPANY:
Compaq Computer
Houston, TX
800-345-1518, 281-370-0670
www.compaq.com

AS TESTED: 1GHz SpeedStep Pentium III; 128MB 100MHz SDRAM; 30GB hard drive; CD-RW drive; ATI Rage Mobility-P graphics controller chip with 8MB SDRAM; 15-inch TFT SXGA+ (1,400 by 1,050) display; Compaq Premier Sound (ESS Maestro 2E sound controller chip) with integrated speakers; integrated Compaq V.90 modem; Mini-PCI Intel Pro 100+ Ethernet; Windows 2000

MFR. EST. PRICE: $3,699

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MOBILE

IBM THINKPAD ISERIES 1300 1171-7WU

No-Cables Networking, No-Problem Price

MOST BUDGET CONSUMER NOTEBOOKS HAVE THREE SPINDLES, meaning they feature fixed hard, floppy, and optical (CD-ROM or DVD) drives. The $1,349 IBM ThinkPad iSeries 1300 1171-7WU, however, goes against the norm, dropping the internal floppy drive. Instead, it has an external USB floppy drive, which saves weight—after all, you can leave the floppy drive at home when you hit the road. The result is a two-spindle unit that tips the scales at just under 6 pounds. This in itself is an impressive feat for a budget notebook.

But that's not what sets this ThinkPad apart from the competition; its built-in 802.11b wireless Mini-PCI LAN solution is even more interesting and unusual. Compared with similarly equipped Toshiba Satellites or Compaq Presarios, the iSeries 1300 costs at least $100 more, but the wireless networking alone may justify the extra expense for some buyers.



The iSeries 1300 is designed to appeal to users in environments that either already have or are planning to deploy a wireless 802.11b network. Apple and Dell both offer notebooks with built-in antennas for wireless networking, but this ThinkPad includes both the antenna and a Mini-PCI wireless network adapter right out of the box.

The iSeries 1300 comes in several configurations, each of which can be further customized on IBM's Web site. The configuration we tested, the 1171-7WU, includes a 700MHz Celeron processor and 13.3-inch display. Another model, the $1,199 1171-5WU, has a 650MHz processor and a 12.1-inch display. Both come with 64MB of RAM, integrated 802.11b wireless networking, Lotus SmartSuite Millennium Edition, Quicken 2000, MusicMatch Jukebox, and Windows Me. Other than screen and processor, they are identical inside and out, including the same matte-black finish and slim, beveled profile found throughout the ThinkPad line.

The active-matrix LCD and 4MB Silicon Motion LynxEM+ graphics subsystem deliver a maximum internal and external resolution of 1,024 by 768 at 24-bit color. The iSeries 1300 was an underachiever on our Business Graphics WinMark suite, and gamers will be disappointed to find that it does not support 3D graphics. But for its intended use—productivity applications—the configuration we tested offered robust application performance, comparable in some cases with that of systems based on Pentium III processors of equivalent clock speed. In another impressive result for a budget notebook, the lithium-ion battery logged an impressive 3 hours and 31 minutes of use on a single charge.

The iSeries 1300's 24x CD-ROM drive, 10GB hard drive, and internal modem are all standard for its class, and it has the usual complement of ports and expansion slots, including dual USB connectors and two stacked Type II PC Card slots.

Many try, but no other company delivers better mobile keyboards than IBM. The key layout of the iSeries 1300 is perfect, and the feel of the keys is the closest to a solid desktop keyboard we've felt in a notebook, thanks to substantial travel and just the right combination of resistance, key-surface finish, and that satisfying click you get when you press a key. Fans of pointing-stick cursor controls will love the TrackPoint, which is fully programmable and features Press-to-Select functionality, along with three large, well-designed actuation buttons.

The iSeries 1300 also includes three programmable one-touch Internet buttons, as well as a fixed button that calls up the excellent Access ThinkPad compendium of help files, technical specs, and troubleshooting utilities. Offsetting these attributes are poorly functioning key combinations that control audio-CD, mute, and volume operations. Audio quality was difficult to judge because the system's top volume was too faint.

IBM includes plenty of excellent electronic system documentation. The iSeries 1300 also comes protected by a standard one-year carry-in parts-and-labor warranty, which can be upgraded at fairly stiff prices. Upgrade options range from $49 to bump up the carry-in warranty to onsite service, all the way up to $345 for three years of onsite service.

The IBM ThinkPad iSeries 1300 1171-7WU isn't the least expensive budget notebook you can find, but its wireless networking and dual-spindle design set it apart from the pack, not to mention its top-drawer ergonomics that let you work all day without fatigue. The iSeries 1300 is an especially attractive value for mobile users on college or corporate campuses.

—Asa Somers

EDITORS' RATING 6.8

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	7
EASE OF USE	7
FEATURES	8
PERFORMANCE	7
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	6
VALUE	6

Relatively lightweight; wireless networking built in; solid application performance; great keyboard

No 3D-graphics support; poor audio-CD controls; faint audio volume

SYSTEM: IBM ThinkPad iSeries 1300 1171-7WU
COMPANY: IBM
Armonk, NY
888-746-7426, 404-238-1234
www.ibm.com/thinkpad
AS TESTED: 700MHz Mobile Celeron; 64MB PC100 SDRAM; 10GB hard drive; 24x CD-ROM drive; Silicon Motion LynxEM+ graphics controller with 4MB RAM; 13.3-inch TFT XGA display; Crystal WDM audio codec; twin integrated speakers; integrated V.90 modem; integrated Mini-PCI 802.11b wireless networking; Windows Me; Lotus SmartSuite Millennium Edition; additional software
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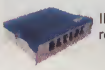
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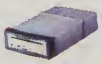
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MOBILE

WINBOOK X1

Slim, Speedy, and Smartly Dressed

ZD Net BEST BUY

WITH A TRAVEL WEIGHT OF 6.2 POUNDS, THE $3,098 1GHZ WinBook X1 is slightly hefty for a thin-and-light model with a 13.3-inch LCD screen. But considering all that the X1 packs in, you might not mind toting the extra few ounces.

With a tested battery life of just under 3 hours, which is on the high side for its class, the X1 lets you leave the portly AC adapter behind much of the time. The X1's sleek, bright, blue-and-silver case makes an eye-catching first impression, and the system is equally well-designed inside and out. The case feels solid and doesn't get overly hot, which you might expect from a processor running at this speed. This is due in part to the durable stamped-aluminum housing. Aluminum dissipates heat better than competing plastic or magnesium designs.



The X1's full-size keyboard has surprisingly good travel and tactile feel, and the arrow keys are positioned in an inverted-T shape, the way we like them. Unfortunately, the PgUp/PgDn keys are crammed into a single column on the right-hand side of the keyboard, and the touch-pad buttons are a little too stiff. We also prefer the Ctrl key at the bottom left, as it appears on desktop keyboards; the X1 had the Fn key in that position.

The keyboard includes hotkeys for controlling the brightness of the LCD and the audio volume; you don't get any visual feedback on the levels, however. On the other hand, a mute button comes as a pleasant surprise.

A moderate performer compared with other 1GHz notebooks we've looked at, the X1 nonetheless delivers excellent performance for its size and configuration. We doubt many users will complain about its aptitude with ordinary business applications. Our test unit came with the X1's maximum possible RAM allotment, 320MB, which is an unusually large amount but one of WinBook's recommended configurations. With that much memory onboard, the 20GB hard drive seems small in comparison.

The SiS630 integrated graphics controller does a fine job driving the LCD at its native resolution of 1,024 by 768, but we had problems connecting to an external display: Despite the notebook having a VGA connector, the CRT couldn't interpret the WinBook's incoming signal. Also, the chipset limits CRT refresh to 60Hz at all resolutions, which would make for uncomfortable lengthy viewing sessions on a CRT display.

The X1 doesn't give you many configuration options—it can host only one battery at a time, and WinBook offers only a DVD-ROM or CD-ROM for the single bay. (The company will provide a DVD/CD-RW combo drive when the drives become more widely available.) An external floppy drive is a $99 option. The system does come with two USB ports instead of the usual single USB port, so you can attach external drives. The X1 also ships with modem and Ethernet built in, so it's ready for cable-modem or DSL access right out of the box. Other standard connectivity features include a PC Card slot, as well as serial and parallel ports.

DVDs play back well, with better-than-average audio all around. WinBook preinstalls CyberLink's PowerDVD playback software on its systems with DVD drives. You'll find no external controls to play CDs, nor any dedicated volume buttons on the outside of the case.

Warranty and support policies are relatively lean, with one year of coverage, no onsite service, and no 24/7 tech support. You can extend the warranty to three years for $99, however. The software bundle is similarly basic: There is none, apart from the operating system. Windows 2000 came preinstalled on our test machine; choosing this configuration with Windows Me instead will save you $99.

The WinBook X1's support may leave you wanting, but the hardware is bound to please. The X1 looks and feels good, runs fast, and lasts long. Well-equipped for a thin-and-light notebook, the X1 delivers class-leading performance and smart design. If the price is too weighty for your wallet, however, you can get the same system with an 800MHz processor—still more than enough power for most users—and 128MB of RAM for about $800 less. And that's a pretty unbeatable bargain.

—Lori Grunin

EDITORS' RATING 7.2

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	8
EASE OF USE	6
FEATURES	7
PERFORMANCE	8
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	6
VALUE	8

Good performance for its size class; two USB ports; good keyboard feel

Stiff touch-pad buttons; poor external display support; heavy AC adapter

SYSTEM: WinBook X1
COMPANY:
WinBook Computer
Columbus, OH
888-480-9183, 614-334-1430
www.winbook.com
AS TESTED: 1GHz Pentium III; 320MB 100MHz SDRAM; 20GB hard drive; 8x DVD drive; SiS630 graphics controller; 13.3-inch TFT XGA LCD; SiS7018 sound controller chip; integrated speakers; integrated V.90 modem; integrated Realtek RTL8139A Ethernet; Windows 2000
DIRECT PRICE: $3,098

ZD Net Price It!™ 34488

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1.7GHz. my friends are envious. my enemies are scared.





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MOBILE

HANDSPRING VISOR EDGE

This Visor's Got a Real Metallic Edge

SUCCESSFUL PDA MAKER HANDSPRING'S NEW $399 Visor Edge is a striking piece of industrial design. The Visor Edge is Handspring's thinnest handheld yet and has a sleek metallic shell that calls to mind Apple's titanium-cased PowerBook G4. The unit competes directly with the popular Palm V series.

Available in silver, blue, and red, the Visor Edge has a matching metal flip lid. This Visor is about half the thickness of and a half-ounce lighter than the original Visor design, although it's still slightly larger and heavier than the Palm V.

In place of the standard Springboard slot, the handheld has an Edge connector and a Springboard adapter. To attach a module, you insert it into the adapter and then slide the entire attachment over the back of the device in a manner similar to one of the expansion sleeves of a Compaq iPaq Pocket PC. This gives Handspring an advantage over Palm when it comes to expandability.



The Visor Edge's insides are virtually identical to those of the Visor Platinum, including the same 33MHz processor (the Motorola DragonBall VZ), same 8MB of memory, and same backlit, 4-bit (16-shade) gray-scale display. Unlike the Platinum, the Visor Edge includes a rechargeable lithium-ion battery rated for one month of typical use, as well as a redesigned USB cradle. It also comes with the latest version of the Palm OS and includes all the standard Palm apps, plus an advanced calculator, Date Book+, and a world clock.

The Visor Edge worked as advertised. Installation was flawless. The new design not only looks great, but is comfortable to carry and use, and we especially liked how the lid locked in two different positions. Our only real complaints are that it takes a little practice to remove the stylus smoothly, and that, unlike the Palm Vx, the Visor Edge does not have flash memory, so you can't upgrade to Palm OS 4.0. But for now, the Handspring Visor Edge holds the clear edge in terms of design, features, and expansion.

—John Morris

EDITORS' RATING 8.4

RATED 1 TO 10

APPLICATIONS	8
DESIGN	9
EASE OF USE	9
PERFORMANCE	9
VALUE	7

Thinnest, lightest Visor ever; attractive design; still offers expansion; convenient flip cover; rechargeable lithium-ion battery

Requires a Springboard adapter; no flash memory

PRODUCT: Handspring Visor Edge
COMPANY: Handspring
Mountain View, CA
888-565-9393, 650-230-5000
www.handspring.com
DIRECT PRICE: $399

ZDNet Price It!™ 34482

For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

MOTOROLA V. SERIES 60C

Carry the Ultimate in Cell-Phone Chic

MOTOROLA'S LATEST V. SERIES MOBILE PHONE, the 60c, sells for $400 to $450 and takes cell-phone miniaturization to the extreme. From its tiny 3.4-by-1.8-by-0.9-inch size to its sleek brushed-aluminum curves, the 60c is a true looker.

Motorola redesigned the 60c's interface for maximum simplicity. Besides adding more visual cues, the main menu is now customizable, enabling you to reorder items to fit your needs. Also, you can use voice commands, as well as several keypad shortcuts, to activate specific features.

Despite weighing just 3.9 ounces, the 60c feels comfortable in your hand. Its small 1.5-inch screen is well-lit and easy to read. The small buttons are surprisingly easy to use and make one-touch typing a breeze. The 60c also includes a small external display for viewing Caller ID information.



Coverage is good: The 60c can operate on digital CDMA networks of 1,900MHz and 800MHz, as well as roam where only old-style 800MHz analog carriers exist. The claimed battery standby time is a lengthy 150 hours, while the expected talk time is a respectable 2.5 hours.

A built-in WAP minibrowser provides pared-down Internet access. You can send, receive, and store short alphanumeric messages using the phone's Short Message Service (SMS) capabilities. The unit has an integrated date book to help you manage your schedule as well.

Unfortunately, the 60c has a long way to go before it can replace your PDA. Despite its iTap predictive text-entry feature, entering data still takes too many clicks. The phone lacks a way to store a task list, and although the address book can handle up to 400 names, each entry can save only one phone number. Still, if $400 isn't too much for a phone that's easy to use and the ultimate in small and sexy, the Motorola V. Series 60c is tough to beat.

—Xavier W. Niz

EDITORS' RATING 6.8

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	9
EASE OF USE	8
FEATURES	5
PERFORMANCE	7
VALUE	5

Voice-activated menu items; customizable navigation; extremely small

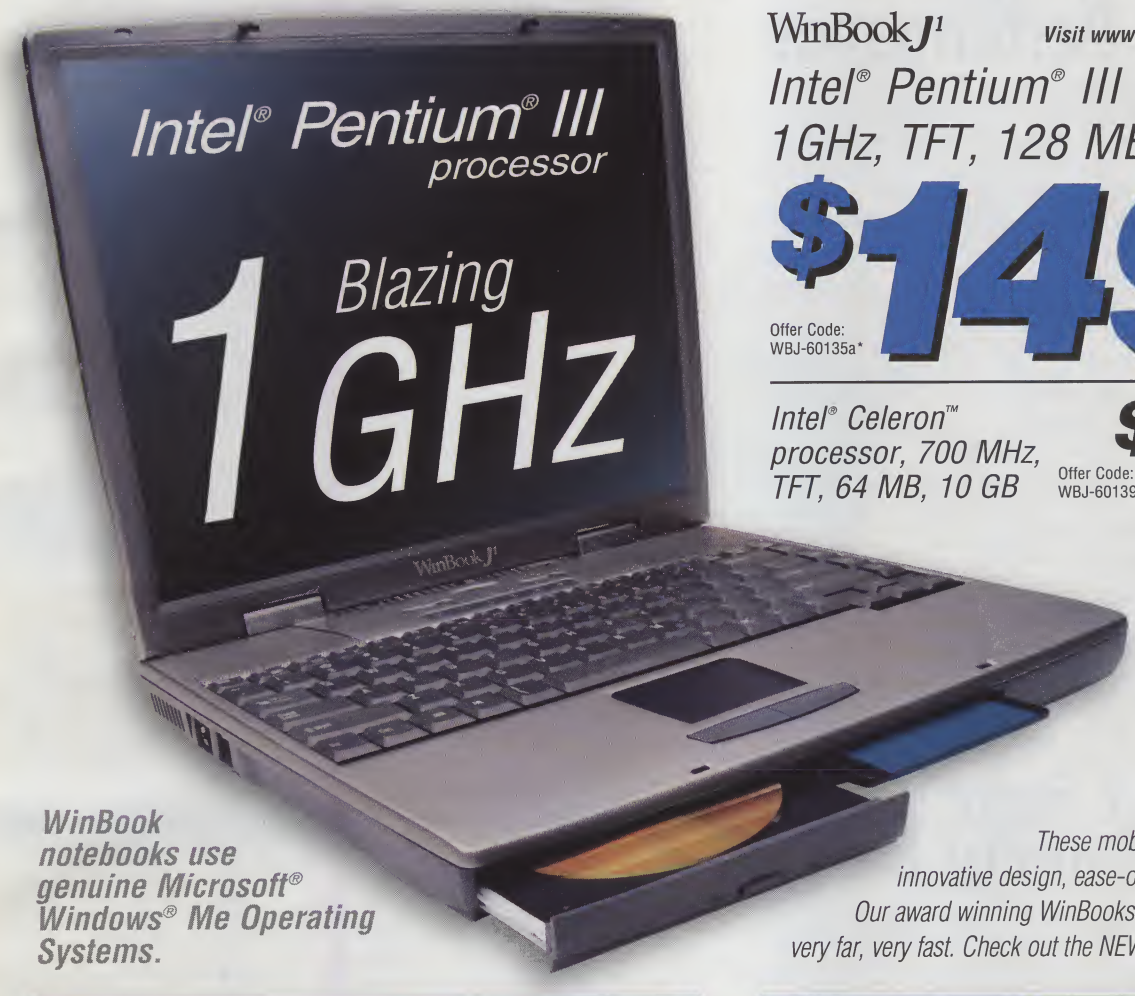
Hard to input text; only one number per address-book entry; no task list

PRODUCT: Motorola V. Series 60c
COMPANY: Motorola
Schaumburg, IL; 800-331-6456
www.motorola.com
MFR. EST. PRICE: $400 to $450 (depending on carrier and service plan)

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MOBILE

COMPAQ IPAQ POCKET PC H3150

A Pocket PC That Paqs in Performance

COMPAQ COMPUTER MADE A BIG SPLASH IN THE handheld market with its 3600-series Pocket PCs. For an encore, the company delivers the iPaq Pocket PC H3150, a close cousin, but with only half the memory—16MB instead of 32MB—and without the bright color screen that is the 3600 series' most eye-catching feature.

Think of the $349 iPaq H3150 as the H3650 on a budget. Both are powered by a fast 206MHz Intel StrongARM 32-bit processor, and both use Microsoft Windows for Pocket PC, with its full complement of programs that includes calendar, contacts, task list, Pocket Excel, Pocket Word, Pocket Internet Explorer, and Windows Media Player.

Other commonalities include a built-in microphone and speaker, a stereo headphone jack, and the ability to play MP3 music as well as record and play back voice notes. ActiveSync technology is used to synchronize with your desktop system.



Both products also come with Outlook 2000.

The big difference in the H3150 is the screen, a standard monochrome LCD with the usual greenish background. It's equivalent to a monochrome Palm or Handspring Visor display, but certainly no better, except for the larger size (240 by 320 resolution) that's typical of Pocket PCs.

The monochrome screen saves power, and Compaq estimates a 14-hour battery life for the H3150, roughly several days in real-world use. Be aware that the H3150 comes with a power adapter and USB cable for syncing, but a cradle is an extra-cost option—a wrinkle for budget buyers.

Weighing 5.8 ounces, the H3150 fits comfortably in your hand, whether by itself or attached to one of the optional expansion sleeves. Expansion choices include a pack with a CompactFlash slot and another with a PC Card slot.

The iPaq Pocket PC H3150 is a sleek, well-put-together handheld that may not be as easy to read in the dark as its color cousin, but is a match for it in many other respects.

—M. David Stone

EDITORS' RATING 7.4

RATED 1 TO 10

APPLICATIONS	7
DESIGN	9
EASE OF USE	7
PERFORMANCE	8
VALUE	6

Fast performance; full complement of applications; can be used as MP3 player; records voice notes; rechargeable battery rated for 14-hour life

Monochrome LCD is hard to read under dim lighting; optional expansion sleeves are additional expense; doesn't include docking cradle

PRODUCT: Compaq iPaq Pocket PC H3150
COMPANY: Compaq Computer
Houston, TX
800-345-1518, 281-370-0670
www.compaq.com
MFR. EST. PRICE: $349

ZDNet Price It!™ 34483

For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

PALM M105

The Budget Palm Gets a Memory Boost

LIKE A FAMILIAR CAR LINE THAT GETS AN ANNUAL refresh, Palm's latest budget PDA, the $199 m105, has just rolled off the assembly line. The new model, still color-customizable with optional ($19.95) snap-on color faceplates, has a curvy case, offers a clock viewable through a small window in the front cover when the unit is turned off, and comes with 8MB of RAM instead of the 2MB to be found in its less expensive sibling, the m100.

The two handhelds share the basic applications for managing addresses, appointments, and to-do lists, but the m105 comes with Palm's Mobile Internet Kit, which enables you to connect to the Internet using a Net-ready phone. The kit also includes the MultiMail e-mail program and applications for instant messaging and sending Short Message Service (SMS) text messages via wireless networks.



Synchronization remains drop-dead simple. A docking cradle is standard with the m105—an improvement over the m100's clumsier cable-sync solution—but it still connects only to the PC's serial port, not the speedier USB port.

The m105, though weighing a scant 4.4 ounces, is missing other basic features when compared with both higher-end Palms and rival Handspring's line of Palm OS-based Visor handhelds. The m105 uses two AAA batteries, like the low-end Visors, while the m500 series comes with rechargeable batteries. In addition, the m105 lacks expansion capabilities; even low-end Visors have a Springboard expansion slot.

Apart from its lack of expandability, the m105 has two other shortcomings. First, old Palm modems can't attach to the m105's serial connector. Second, the m105 doesn't come standard with Macintosh connectivity hardware, forcing Mac users to purchase either a serial connection kit for $14.95 or a USB kit for $39.95.

Like a Ford Taurus, the Palm m105 won't satisfy those who crave power or status. However, it is a reasonable, if not compelling, choice if you don't require expandability and you simply want to handle personal information easily and inexpensively.

—David Haskin

EDITORS' RATING 6.0

RATED 1 TO 10

APPLICATIONS	6
DESIGN	7
EASE OF USE	7
PERFORMANCE	5
VALUE	5

Inexpensive; uses familiar Palm interface; lightweight; comes with cradle

Not expandable; old Palm modems won't work; serial interface; Mac connectivity not standard

PRODUCT: Palm m105
COMPANY: Palm
Santa Clara, CA
800-881-7256, 408-326-9000
www.palm.com
MFR. EST. PRICE: $199

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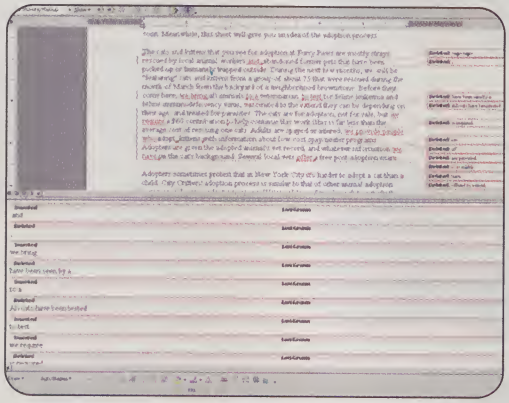
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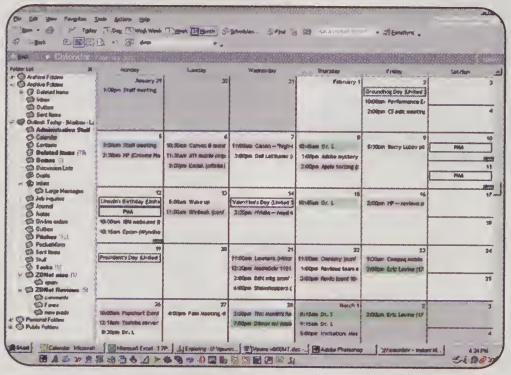
Are You Ready For a New XPerience?

THE "XP" IN MICROSOFT'S NEW OFFICE XP PRODUCTIVITY SUITE stands for "experience." Although Office XP may help users better experience Office's wide array of well-known features, Microsoft doesn't provide any major new features in this latest release of its flagship suite.

In theory, Office XP competes with two other office suites, the just-released Corel WordPerfect 2002 and Lotus SmartSuite Millennium Edition. But given Microsoft's market share, Office XP really competes with older versions of Office. Although users of previous Office implementations won't find a persuasive reason to upgrade, those who employ other productivity suites may find Office XP's powerful features a compelling reason to switch.

We looked at the $479 Office XP Professional Special Edition, which includes the 2002 versions of Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Access, FrontPage, and Publisher, as well as SharePoint Team Services and Microsoft's IntelliMouse Explorer. Special Edition will be available only for a limited time, and only to owners of a previous version of Office. (The one-step-down Office XP Professional includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Access for $579 for new users, $329 for upgraders.)





The most noticeable new features aren't really new; instead, they provide new means of accessing old functions. For example, the Task Pane takes advantage of all that extra real estate on today's higher-resolution displays to provide context-sensitive tools and help. The Task Pane either floats or appears on the right side of your screen in all Office apps (except Outlook), providing easy access to tasks that you would have performed through menus or toolbars in the past, such as Word's Styles and Formatting or PowerPoint's Slide Layout.

SmartTags is another cross-application tool that brings existing capabilities to the surface. Small icons provide the ability to perform specific actions when a known item type is selected. For example, if you hover over a name, you can drop down a SmartTag, which offers you the option to send e-mail, schedule a meeting, open the contact, add to contacts, or insert the address. The SmartTags' usefulness depends on how you use the apps.

Many new features in the suite involve crash recovery, though not crash protection. The suite does have some subtle forms of crash protection, however, such as warnings about low system resources that pop up before the app crashes.

Previous versions of Office have taken a stab at collaboration features, but these features are not widely used. The new SharePoint Team Services are designed to make it easier to create and use intranet sites hosted internally or by a third party; think of them as Exchange for small and medium-size businesses. SharePoint acts as a central calendar, task list, event list, discussion board, contact list, and document-storage area.

Other new features in Office XP seem to be designed to build a foundation for future applications. For instance, Word 2002 has a more robust infrastructure for moving between its native format and HTML and XML, and now supports the Open Document Management API, just in time to integrate with Microsoft's new SharePoint Portal Server document-management system. Similarly, Excel now supports XML. These features fit neatly into Microsoft's .Net strategy.

Office is often criticized for its system requirements. Office keeps getting bigger, but hard drive capacity has been growing at a much faster rate. However, we noticed that the applications in Office XP generally required more system resources under Windows 98. For example, Excel seemed to crash when available system resources dipped below 34 percent. Fortunately, as resources drop, Excel redraws the screen in chunks and gives you fair warning to shut down other apps. We found Office XP to be much more stable under Windows 2000.

We ran into a few other glitches with Office XP. For example, the cross-application Compress Pictures tool, which automatically optimizes images for the Web, print, or screen display, worked fine in PowerPoint but not in Word. And Word's Mail Merge feature treated Outlook contacts as if they were e-mail messages. These problems, given the overall scope of Office XP, are relatively trivial, however.

With each new version, Microsoft seems to have a harder time coming up with features to add to this megasuite. For IT professionals, this may come as a relief, because it means the rollout should go far more smoothly than with previous versions. For everyone else, new features such as SharePoint are nice touches that will keep your productivity suite primed for the future.

—Lori Grunin

EDITORS' RATING 7.8

RATED 1 TO 10

COMPATIBILITY	8
EASE OF USE	8
POWER	8
PRODUCTIVITY	8
VALUE	7

Powerful application suite; useful search and clipboard Task Panes; good file- and application-recovery tools

Not many new features for individual users; expensive upgrade for what you get

PRODUCT: Microsoft Office XP Professional Special Edition
COMPANY: Microsoft
Redmond, WA
800-426-9400, 425-882-8080
REQUIRES: 133MHz Pentium or faster; 32MB RAM (64MB for Windows 2000); 245MB hard drive space; Windows 98, Me, or 2000, or NT 4.0 with Service Pack 6 or later
LIST PRICE: $479 (for owners of earlier versions of Office)

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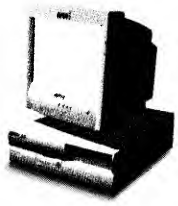
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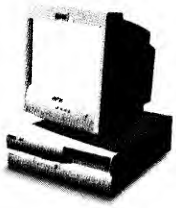
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Desktop model p4150t: Intel Pentium III processor 1GHz / Intel i815 chipset / 128MB SDRAM / 20GB HDD / 48X max CD-ROM / Intel Direct 3D integrated video / 3Com 10/100 integrated LAN / Windows 2000

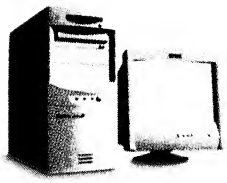
$1146*



Vectra VL400

Desktop model p4151t: Intel Pentium III processor 1GHz / Intel i815 chipset / 128MB SDRAM / 20GB HDD / 48X max CD-ROM / Intel Direct 3D integrated video / 3Com 10/100 integrated LAN / Windows 98

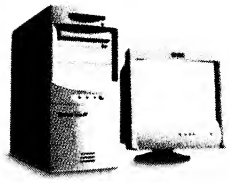
$990*



Vectra VL400

Minitower model p4153t: Intel Pentium III processor 1GHz / Intel i815 chipset / 128MB SDRAM / 20GB HDD / 48X max CD-ROM / Intel Direct 3D integrated video / 3Com 10/100 integrated LAN / Windows 2000

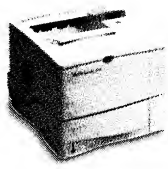
$1169*



Vectra VL800

Minitower model p2078t: Intel Pentium 4 processor 1.3GHz / Intel i850 chipset / 128MB Rambus / 20GB HDD / 48X max CD-ROM / Matrox G450 dual-16MB video / 3Com 10/100 integrated LAN / Windows 2000

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WEB SERVICES

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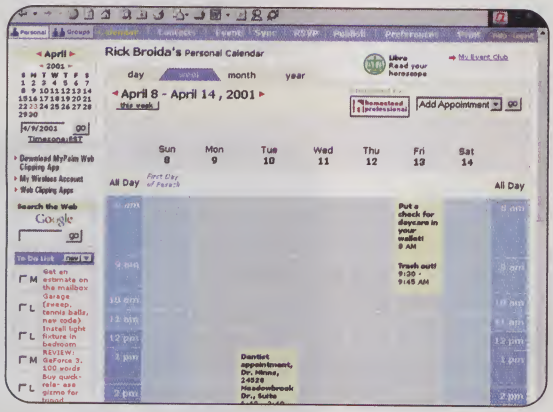
Organization in the Palm of Your Hand

LAST YEAR, PALM ACQUIRED ANYDAY.COM TO PROvide a Web companion for Palm OS device owners. The result, MyPalm, retains AnyDay.com's robust calendar- and contact-management features, while giving Palm users access to their data on the Web. The deal is sweeter still for Palm VII/VIIx owners, who can wirelessly tap into MyPalm for calendar updates and software downloads.

You don't have to own a Palm handheld to use the free MyPalm service. The synchronization utility, XTNDConnect PC, ferries data between your desktop PIM (Palm Desktop, Microsoft Outlook, or one of several other programs) and your MyPalm account. Your Palm device isn't immediately involved, as it still synchronizes with your PIM. In fact, MyPalm even supports Pocket PC devices.

MyPalm is an admirably versatile portal, capable of everything from event planning and personal-account management to group calendaring and calendar sharing. You can make your date-book entries available to others, even if they're not MyPalm members, and print your data from any PC. The XTNDConnect PC utility works flawlessly, though it does truncate records with lengthy "notes" fields, and it doesn't sync the Palm's memo pad.

For Palm VII/VIIx owners, a comprehensive Web-clipping app serves as a handheld portal, providing local event and movie listings, access to personal accounts, Web browsing and searching, Web-clipping downloads, and other content. It can also update your handheld date book with appointments from your MyPalm account (but not vice versa), ostensibly allowing others to modify your schedule. If you own a different Palm device, Palm's Mobile Internet Kit and a modem or cell phone will let you use MyPalm in a similar fashion.



Though the MyPalm site includes superlative online help, Palm could do a better job assisting novice users with the synchronization utility and clipping app. Even so, MyPalm offers plenty of compelling features for a price that's impossible to beat.

—Rick Broida

EDITORS' RATING 7.6

RATED 1 TO 10

EASE OF USE	6
FEATURES	8
PERFORMANCE	9
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	7
VALUE	8

Free; not limited to Palm owners; wide range of scheduling and contact-management features; seamless synchronization with desktop PIM

Not much setup assistance for novices; no memo-pad synchronization; date-book updates one-way only

SERVICE: MyPalm
COMPANY: Palm
Santa Clara, CA; 800-881-7256
my.palm.com
PRICE: Free

ZDNet Price It!™ 34471

For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

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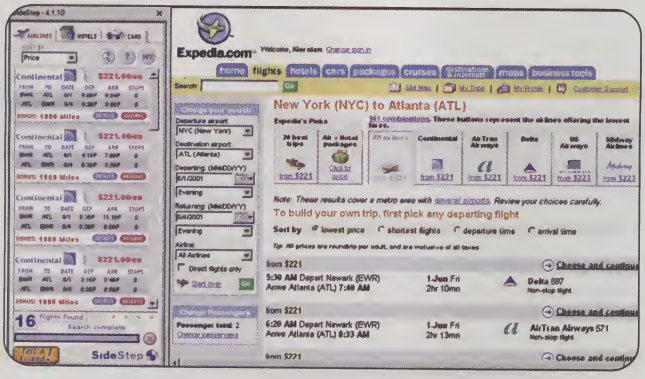
THE WEB MAKES PLANNING TRAVEL EASY. BUT with so many sites to choose from, it's hard to know when you've found the best deal. SideStep, an online travel agent, hopes to provide a one-source solution.

SideStep provides its free service via an Internet Explorer plug-in. (Netscape and Mac versions are in development.) Installation is quick, letting you access the service in only three steps. After that, just press the SideStep button on your toolbar, and a frame with search options opens on the left side of your browser window.

If you've used an online travel agent, you'll feel right at home with SideStep's interface. Three menu tabs (Airlines, Hotels, and Cars) let you select the category to search, and three nicely placed function buttons let you start a new search, access help, and customize the program to your needs.

Unlike traditional travel portals, SideStep searches the databases of more than 80 travel suppliers directly, then sends you to the supplier's site to complete the purchase. (SideStep charges suppliers a much lower commission than other portals or travel agents.) You'll find deals you'd otherwise find only by searching each supplier's site individually, and you're still eligible for online-booking incentives.

Purchasing through SideStep is straightforward. Enter your travel parameters, and SideStep begins searching. Once the search is complete, you can sort by price, airline, trip time, or other factors. Click the Details button on a particular offering to learn more about it. Clicking Reserve opens a booking window at the appropriate supplier, with all the details filled in. You purchase directly from there.



SideStep's airline search results turned up cheaper fares than Travelocity.com or Expedia, but its rental-car and hotel results didn't seem to be as extensive. Even so, SideStep's ease of use and quick, thorough results make it a must for any online traveler.

—Steven Abrams

EDITORS' RATING 8.2

RATED 1 TO 10

EASE OF USE	9
FEATURES	8
PERFORMANCE	8
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	7
VALUE	9

Easy to use; delivers quick results; great source for good travel deals

Currently works only with Internet Explorer; didn't always find the best deal

SERVICE: SideStep
COMPANY: SideStep
Santa Clara, CA; 408-235-1700
www.sidestep.com
PRICE: Free

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GAMESPOT

STAR WARS: BATTLE FOR NABOO

No Fear Of Flying

EDITORS' RATING 6.4

Star Wars: Battle for Naboo is the first game that lets you pilot various Naboo vehicles within the *Episode I* universe. Like Rogue Squadron, Battle for



Naboo features extremely straightforward gameplay without the finer mechanics of piloting, such as distributing power to different systems or worrying about navigation points. Instead, you can increase your speed by simply holding down the acceleration key and fire all your primary weapons endlessly.

Even with its simplistic controls, effectively maneuvering Battle for Naboo's vehicles can be challenging at times. The vehicles have poor turning radiuses on the ground, and odd invisible barriers inhibit flight-oriented missions. During missions in which you control Starfighters and similar craft, the invisible barrier prevents you from flying too high. But in the middle of a dogfight, it's easy to lose track of these borders, especially when the computer-controlled Trade Federation craft move outside of them. When you fly into an invisible barrier, you lose control of your ship and may have to wait a while before you can reorient your vehicle.

Despite its navigational problems, Battle for Naboo is still enjoyable. Because it doesn't pretend to be a true *Star Wars* flight simulator like the X-Wing series, it's easy to look past some of the control issues. Moreover, the game's graphics are a noticeable improvement over those of its Nintendo 64 counterpart. Still, the biggest problem is the game's length: Not only can you complete Battle for Naboo in a few hours, there's nothing to draw you back in after you've done so.

—Giancarlo Varanini

(LucasArts Entertainment; $39.95 34484 www.lucasarts.com)

THE SIMS: HOUSE PARTY EXPANSION PACK

Sims Casa Es su Casa

EDITORS' RATING 8.3

The Sims: House Party Expansion Pack is the second add-on for Maxis' popular real-life simulation, The Sims. Like the earlier expansion pack Livin' Large (which isn't required to play House Party), House Party adds new household objects, home-decorating themes, and character skins. But while most of Livin' Large's additions didn't really add much to The Sims' core gameplay, House Party's new features enhance the basic game considerably.

Some of the add-on's items go past the "party" line and can be extremely useful in saving time, space, or both. For instance, you can purchase prepared meals, such as a roast turkey, which cut back on the time needed to cook (and learning to cook). You can even hire an expensive caterer to cook meals for your gatherings. House Party's new fixtures, wallpaper patterns, and accessories, meanwhile, give you plenty to work with, providing all the goodies you need to plan everything from a luau around your swimming pool to an ultramodern dance party with a DJ turntable in front of an illuminated dance floor.

Regardless of what sort of parties you throw, if you enjoyed the original game's quirky sense of humor, you're likely to find the new items and characters just as amusing. Put a Sim in a dancing cage at a dance party, and it'll jump, twirl, and climb up the bars. Or seat one before a campfire and command it to sing, and it'll whip out an acoustic guitar as the other Sims join in on the chorus.

—Andrew Seyoon Park

(Maxis/Electronic Arts; $29.99 34489 www.thesims.com)

BLACK & WHITE

It's Good to Be a God

EDITORS' RATING 9.3

ZD Net BEST BUY



Three years in the making, Lionhead Studios' debut game manages to live up to its audience's extremely high expectations. Black & White is a massive game about lofty concepts—gods and miracles—and yet it never takes itself too seriously. Although some aspects of it require getting used to, and can even be frustrating, there's so much to see and experience in this incredible game that its shortcomings should not turn you away.

Most players will agree that Black & White's best feature is its giant creatures. Each god commands one as its personal avatar. You can teach the creature to mimic many of your own godly interventions, and the game's sophisticated artificial intelligence makes it fascinating to watch the creature learn these things. The good news is that although this aspect of the game is secondary to Black & White's core strategy, it's even more satisfying and at least as involved.

Black & White's graphics are nothing short of amazing. You can zoom in to see your individual villagers' faces or zoom all the way out until your island is just a small speck in the water. From any distance, the game looks great. Detail is incredible, and creatures look especially convincing, with a vast array of facial expressions and behaviors.

Much more can be said about the game, but one thing is certain: Black & White is huge. It looks and sounds stunning, and its combination of gameplay elements and game mechanics is completely unique. No other PC game to date has so effectively combined so many seemingly incompatible elements into one stunning, highly polished game.

—Greg Kasavin

(Electronic Arts; $39.95 34481 blackandwhite.ea.com)

SERIOUS SAM

Shoot to Thrill

EDITORS' RATING 8.9

You'd have a hard time coming up with a game anywhere near as intense as Serious Sam. This extremely fast-paced first-person shooter delivers a wide range of weapons and monsters—and it's got a good sense of humor to boot. It also uses an impressive 3D engine particularly noteworthy for its ability to display a large number of 3D characters onscreen simultaneously.



Actually, the sheer number of foes you'll face is probably the single most remarkable thing about Serious Sam. Then again, the game has a lot of other great qualities, such as an excellent multiplayer mode, terrific sound effects, and a low price.

Serious Sam plays much like any other recent shooter, only faster. Its single-player mode has a lot of depth, thanks to the numerous secrets hidden in each level and the difficulty options available. Most players will find that the default keyboard controls for movement, as well as the mouse controls for shooting and aiming, are ideal. All of Sam's weapons are straightforward—each new one you find just seems bigger and stronger than the last. You'll almost always be busy fending off hordes of quick, deadly monsters. Some of these will fire at you from a distance, while many will simply rush toward you. All are utterly relentless.

Serious Sam is essentially perfect for what it is: A great-looking, fun-filled game with plenty of visceral thrills and absolutely, positively the biggest battles in any shooter to date.

—G.K.

(GodGames; $19.99 34485 www.godgames.com)

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ATHLON DDR PCs

the DYNAMIC DUO

AMD'S ATHLON PROCESSOR HAS MET ITS MATE IN DOUBLE-DATA-RATE (DDR) MEMORY—AND CONSUMERS GET TO REAP THE REWARDS OF THEIR UNION.

BY DAVID ENGLISH

When Intel announced its Pentium 4 last November, all eyes turned to AMD. A 1.5GHz processor was a big jump in clock speed, and it seemed unlikely that AMD would be able to duplicate that speed any time soon. But now that AMD has released its 1.2GHz and 1.3GHz Athlon processors, it doesn't have to match Intel's clock speeds in order to match or exceed the Pentium 4's performance.

This was our first chance to compare a group of 1.2GHz and 1.33GHz Athlon systems equipped with 266MHz double-data-rate (DDR) SDRAM, which runs twice as fast as conventional 133MHz SDRAM. We found that this combination is able to equal or surpass 1.5GHz Pentium 4 systems in both application speed and 3D-graphics performance, yet the Athlon systems can cost hundreds of dollars less than a comparably equipped 1.5GHz Pentium 4 system.

How can 1.2GHz or 1.3GHz be faster than 1.5GHz? A processor's performance is a function of its clock speed (measured in megahertz or gigahertz) times the number of its instructions per clock (IPC). The Pentium 4 is engineered for maximum clock speed, and is actually 10 to 20 percent less efficient than a Pentium III at cramming instructions into each clock cycle. The bottom line is that a 1.3GHz Pentium 4 won't necessarily be 30 percent faster than a 1GHz Pentium III. Similarly, if a 1.33GHz Athlon can handle more instructions in its clock cycle than a 1.5GHz Pentium 4 can, the Athlon should theoretically be able to run its programs faster than the Pentium 4. Our testing bears this out, showing that a 1.2GHz and 1.33GHz Athlon desktop with DDR SDRAM can beat a similarly equipped 1.5GHz Pentium 4 desktop. The systems we looked at were no slouches in terms of their other parts, either. So, if you're shopping for a high-end system, don't rely only on clock speed—especially when comparing Athlons and Pentiums.

The message is clear: If you think of Athlon systems as second-rate desktops with inferior components, these five systems should change your opinion.

< FACT FILE >

Category Tested	Athlon/DDR SDRAM Desktops
Price Range	$1,779 to $3,287
Minimum Configuration	AMD 1.2GHz Athlon CPU; 128MB DDR SDRAM; 40GB hard drive; DVD-ROM or CD-RW drive; 19-inch monitor; Windows Me
Companies Included	Atlas Micro Logistic, Compaq Computer, MicronPC, Polywell Computers, Xi Computer
ZDNet BEST BUY	**Atlas Micro XS5000** ***Xi MTower SP***

ILLUSTRATION BY JOE ST.PIERRE


ATHLON
DDR
AMD

ATLAS MICRO XS5000

EDITORS' RATING 7.7

DESIGN	7	PERFORMANCE	8
EASE OF USE	7	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	8
FEATURES	7	VALUE	9

PROS: Extremely low price; strong overall performance; three-year warranty; lifetime toll-free support
CONS: No CD-RW drive; poor software bundle

ZDNet BEST BUY

The Atlas Micro XS5000 is one of the best performers we've ever seen. It has the same 1.33GHz Athlon chip, 256MB of DDR SDRAM, and top-notch graphics subsystem as some other superfast systems we've tested. It even has a three-year warranty and lifetime toll-free technical support. But the XS5000 sells for just $1,779 direct—roughly $1,000 less than the other Athlon systems reviewed here.

To keep the price down, Atlas Micro had to make a few component compromises. For instance, our evaluation system had a 5,400rpm 40GB hard drive. The other systems we looked at had faster, larger-capacity drives, or two hard drives. It also lacked a CD-RW drive and did not include one of the major productivity suites. Nevertheless, the XS5000 has other highly respectable specifications, including a graphics card with an nVidia GeForce2 GTS Ultra processor and 64MB of DDR RAM, a 12x DVD-ROM drive, and a 19-inch monitor. The result is a system tuned for maximum game performance and offering more than enough processing muscle for its intended audience of home users.



Atlas Micro XS5000

Our benchmark tests prove that the XS5000 meets or beats the performance levels of some 1.5GHz Pentium 4 systems. It scored an impressive 48.2 on Business Winstone 2001, and posted an equally commanding 55.4 result on Content Creation Winstone 2001. (These scores were only a few percentage points behind those of the Xi MTower SP, even though the XS5000 sells for $771 less.) The XS5000 also turned in outstanding performance on our graphics benchmarks.

The XS5000 offers plenty of room to grow. Still available inside the tower case are two PCI slots, one front-accessible 3.5-inch bay, two front-accessible 5.25-inch bays, two internal 3.5-inch bays, and one internal 5.25-inch bay. Moreover, despite the bargain-

ATHLON DDR PCs

< FEATURE COMPARISON >

	Atlas Micro XS5000 (ZDNet BEST BUY)	Compaq Presario 7000Z-1.2	MicronPC Millennia Max XP2	Polywell Poly 880KR-1300
DIRECT PRICE	$1,779	$2,923	$2,337	$3,287
CONFIGURATION				
Processor	1.33GHz AMD Athlon	1.2GHz AMD Athlon	1.33GHz AMD Athlon	1.33GHz AMD Athlon
RAM Installed/Maximum	256MB DDR SDRAM/1GB	256MB DDR SDRAM/512MB	128MB DDR SDRAM/1GB	256MB DDR SDRAM/2GB
Motherboard Manufacturer	Biostar	Compaq	Gigabyte	Asus
Chipset	AMD 761/Via 686B	IDG4	AMD 760	AMD 760
Hard Drive Manufacturer/Capacity	Various/40GB	IBM/75GB	Western Digital/40GB	IBM/two 30GB
Hard Drive Interface	UltraATA/100	UltraATA/100	UltraATA/100	UltraATA/100
Hard Drive Rotation Speed (rpm)	5,400rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm
Sound Card	Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value	Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value	Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value	Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Platinum 5.1
Speaker System	Altec Lansing ATP3	Klipsch ProMedia v.2-400	Altec Lansing ACS33	Cambridge SoundWorks PCWorks
No. of Speakers (Including Subwoofer)	Five	Five	Three	Three
Graphics Card/Memory	nVidia GeForce2 GTS Ultra/ 64MB DDR	Creative Labs 3D Blaster Annihilator 2 Ultra/64MB DDR	Creative Labs 3D Blaster Annihilator 2 Ultra/64MB DDR	Leadtek WinFast GeForce2 Ultra/ 64MB DDR
Graphics Accelerator Chip	nVidia GeForce2 Ultra	nVidia GeForce2 Ultra	nVidia GeForce2 Ultra	nVidia GeForce2 Ultra
Total/Available Front-Accessible 3.5-Inch Bays	Two/one	Two/one	One/none	Three/two
Total/Available Front-Accessible 5.25-Inch Bays	Four/two	Three/one	Three/one	Four/two
Total/Available Internal 3.5-Inch Bays	Three/two	Two/one	Four/three	Three/one
Total/Available Internal 5.25-Inch Bays	Four/one	None/none	None/none	None/none
Total/Available PCI Slots	Five/two	Five/two	Six/three	Five/two
CD-RW Drive	None	LG 12x/4x/32x	NEC 12x/10x/32x	Plextor 16x/10x/40x
DVD-ROM Drive	Creative Labs 12x	Pioneer 16x	NEC 16x	Toshiba 16x
56kbps Modem	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Built-In Network Adapter	None	10/100mbps	10/100mbps	10/100mbps (card)
CRT Monitor	19-inch ViewSonic E790	19-inch Compaq MV940	19-inch MicronPC 910Ex	19-inch ViewSonic GS790
Maximum Monitor Resolution	1,600x1,200	1,600x1,200	1,600x1,200	1,600x1,200
Dimensions (HWD, Inches)	17.9x7.9x17.5	19x8.4x20.9	18.4x7x18.8	17.6x8.4x19.4
Weight (Pounds)	30	31	22	35
CONNECTIVITY				
Ports	Parallel, two serial, game, IR, two USB, DVI-D, S-Video out	Parallel, serial, three IEEE 1394, four USB	Parallel, serial, game, four USB, S-Video in/out	Parallel, two serial, game, two USB, S-Video out
SOFTWARE				
Installed OS as Tested	Windows Me	Windows Me	Windows Me	Windows Me
Bundled Software	StarOffice 5.2	Studio DV, McAfee VirusScan, Microsoft Money 2000, Microsoft Works 2000, Easy CD Creator, Microsoft Word 2000, Microsoft Encarta, MyMovieStudio	Norton AntiVirus, Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business, Easy CD Creator 4, WinDVD 2.3	Lotus SmartSuite Millennium Edition
SERVICE AND SUPPORT				
Warranty (Parts/Labor, in Years)	Three/three	One/one	One/one	Three/five
Extended/Upgraded Warranties Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Toll-Free Technical Support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Technical-Support Hours (ET)	11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. M-F	24 hours daily	24 hours daily	24 hours daily
Online Technical Support	No	Yes	No	Yes
Onsite Service	Optional	Yes	Yes	Optional
Onsite Service Term (Years)	Three	One	One	One to five

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AMD'S SILVER HAMMER

ATHLON DDR PCs

The next battlefront in the war of the processors is likely to take place on the 64-bit parallel. Intel recently announced the availability of its 64-bit Itanium processor, and once again, all eyes are on AMD and its new 64-bit CPU. Code-named SledgeHammer, AMD's 64-bit processor will try to win over buyers by being fully compatible with the current generation of 32-bit software.

The two chip manufacturers are approaching 64-bit computing from opposite ends of the spectrum. The Itanium is a true 64-bit chip with a built-in 32-bit capability. By contrast, SledgeHammer builds its 64-bit performance on top of a 32-bit core to maintain full compatibility. But while the Itanium is expected to have a 32-bit mode for x86-processor compatibility, it may not run current 32-bit programs any faster than a Pentium 4. Intel is working with developers to help them recompile their software so existing programs can run much faster in the Itanium's native 64-bit mode. AMD, on the other hand, is touting the fact that you won't have to recompile your software (and pay extra for the privilege) to receive the maximum benefit from SledgeHammer's architecture.



ILLUSTRATION BY DENNIS HARMS

Because Intel's chip is portrayed as being incompatible with the software standard the company helped to create, AMD is adopting a strategy that Intel had previously used: creating fear, uncertainty, and doubt. The problem for AMD is that the Itanium is supposed to begin shipping this year, and SledgeHammer systems are not expected to ship until next year. That gives Intel plenty of time to seed developers with Itanium systems, so that recompiled versions of major software packages can be available by year's end. Then, when SledgeHammer-based systems become available in 2002, they'll have to compete with mature Itanium systems running a full complement of recompiled 64-bit programs.

For AMD, shipping SledgeHammer so much later than Intel ships the Itanium turns what might have been a major advantage into a risky maneuver. If Intel is able to establish a firm foothold for its versions of 64-bit applications, it could take AMD years to respond with a fully compatible 64-bit processor. In the meantime, Intel could move the Itanium from servers and workstations to general-use business desktops and, ultimately, home systems.

There are risks for Intel, too, however. With AMD nipping at its heels, Intel may not have the market dominance needed to establish a 64-bit processor that breaks with the long line of x86 processors. If the Athlon can continue to keep pace with the Pentium 4, and companies resist the notion of upgrading their applications, AMD's SledgeHammer could live up to its name and deliver quite a blow—at least temporarily—to Intel's battle plan.

basement price, our review model shipped with a 19-inch ViewSonic E790 monitor, which has a 0.22mm horizontal dot pitch (0.26mm measured diagonally).

The XS5000 ships with Windows Me, but don't look for much else in the way of software. It includes no third-party utilities or games, and bundles Sun's StarOffice productivity suite in lieu of one of the major suites from Corel, Lotus, or Microsoft.

Given the low price, we were pleasantly surprised by the XS5000's 30-day money-back guarantee, three-year warranty on both parts and labor, and lifetime toll-free technical support. Some systems selling for twice the price aren't as customer-friendly.

It's not often that you find performance and economy in the same product. The Atlas Micro XS5000 offers a choice mix of top components for a fraction of what other companies are charging.

Xi MTower SP	BEST BUY
$2,550	
1.33GHz AMD Athlon	
256MB DDR SDRAM/1GB	
Gigabyte	
AMD 760/761	
IBM/two 30GB	
UltraATA/100	
7,200rpm	
Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live X-Gamer 5.1	
Altec Lansing ACS45.2	
Three	
Hercules 3D Prophet II Ultra/64MB DDR	
nVidia GeForce2 Ultra	
Two/one	
Three/two	
Two/two	
None/none	
Six/four	
None	
Pioneer 16x	
Yes	
None	
19-inch Optiquest Q95	
1,600x1,200	
17.9x7.9x17.5	
22	
Parallel, two serial, game, two USB, DVI-D, NTSC in/out, composite-video in/out, S-Video in/out	
Windows Me	
Deus Ex, Unreal Tournament, Thief II: The Metal Age, MDK2	
Three/three	
Yes	
Yes	
24 hours daily	
Yes	
Yes	
One	

COMPAQ PRESARIO 7000Z-1.2

EDITORS' RATING **7.2**

DESIGN	7	PERFORMANCE	8
EASE OF USE	7	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	6
FEATURES	8	VALUE	7

PROS: Three IEEE 1394 (FireWire) ports; gigantic 75GB hard drive; video-editing software included; THX-certified speaker system
CONS: Expensive for a 1.2GHz Athlon system; one-year warranty

Not only is the Compaq Presario 7000Z-1.2 the fastest system currently in the Presario lineup, but it's also arguably the most capable system in its class, with features that will appeal to digital-video enthusiasts in particular. Its sterling feature set includes a massive 75GB hard drive and a THX-certified speaker system. Priced at just under $3,000, the 7000Z-1.2 is a relatively expensive home system, but you won't be disappointed with what you get.

Like all Presarios, the 7000Z-1.2 is a smart-looking system. It's available in five color trims and matching desktop wallpaper; you can choose among red, orange, green, purple, and blue accents. But don't let the candy-colored exterior fool you: This system can easily keep pace with its more staid-looking cousins. The configuration we tested included a 1.2GHz Athlon processor, 256MB of DDR SDRAM, a Creative Labs 3D Blaster Annihilator 2 Ultra graphics card with 64MB of its own DDR memory, and Windows Me.

In addition to its three IEEE 1394 (FireWire) ports (one in the front, two in the back), the 7000Z-1.2 includes a video-editing program as part of the software bundle. MyMovieStudio lets you capture video from your digital camcorder, add effects and transitions, and write the completed footage to the 12x/4x/32x CD-RW drive or an optional DVD-R drive. If you already own, or are thinking about buying, a digital camcorder, this system will serve you well.


Compaq Presario 7000Z-1.2

Our test system also included a Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value sound card and

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Inside the 19-by-8.4-by-20.9-inch tower case, you'll find available two PCI slots, one front-accessible 5.25-inch drive bay, one front-accessible 3.5-inch drive bay, and one internal 3.5-inch drive bay. In addition to the IEEE 1394 ports, you'll find four USB ports—two in the front, two in the back.

Apart from MyMovieStudio, the system's software bundle includes Microsoft Works 2000, Word 2000, and Money 2000. We were disappointed that Compaq provides only a one-year parts-and-labor warranty, but you can upgrade that to three years for an additional $149. Toll-free technical support and onsite service are free for the first year.

If you have a digital camcorder, or see one in your future, the fast and capable Compaq Presario 7000Z-1.2 could be the *system for you.*

MICRONPC MILLENNIA MAX XP2

EDITORS' RATING **7.0**

DESIGN	7	PERFORMANCE	8
EASE OF USE	7	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	6
FEATURES	7	VALUE	7

PROS: Fast processor, memory, and graphics card; CD-RW and DVD-ROM drives; three available PCI slots
CONS: One-year warranty; monitor slightly off-focus; loud cooling fan

MicronPC was the first vendor out of the gate with an Athlon/DDR system when it introduced its Millennia Max XP last fall. Now the company has returned with a follow-up, the fittingly named Millennia Max XP2, priced at $2,337 direct.

The system performed well on our application tests, keeping pace with the rest of the 1.33GHz pack. But when shopping, remember this: It's only slightly faster (8 percent at most) than the 1.2GHz version of the same system configured with a fast two-drive subsystem using RAID Level 0 striping. Some 1.2GHz Athlon systems, such as the Compaq Presario 7000Z-1.2, even surpassed it on business-application and content-creation tests. However, the XP2's 3D performance, as well as its drive and graphics subsystems, were more in 1.33GHz territory.



MicronPC Millennia Max XP2

Our review unit came equipped with 128MB of DDR SDRAM, a Western Digital 40GB hard drive, a Creative Labs 3D Blaster Annihilator 2 Ultra graphics card with 64MB of DDR RAM, and a 19-inch monitor. Targeted at home users, this system had both a 12x/10x/32x CD-RW drive and a 16x DVD drive. Roxio's Easy CD Creator 4 was already installed, including its DirectCD component, which lets you drag and drop files onto a recordable or rewritable disc from within most Windows applications. InterVideo's WinDVD 2.3 provides DVD playback, tapping into the GeForce2 Ultra graphics accelerator for hardware-assisted MPEG-2 decoding. The tower also has two USB ports in the front and two more in the back.

Before you reach for your checkbook, however, note that we did run into a few quirks that took the edge off our initial enthusiasm. This system is louder than most—so loud, in fact, that you can hear it across a room. Most of the noise emanates from the cooling fan in the rear. We also observed a glitch with the 19-inch MicronPC 910Ex monitor that shipped with the system. The focus was slightly off, even at a resolution of 1,024 by 768. The solution? Pay an extra $100 and upgrade to MicronPC's flat-face 19-inch Trinitron monitor.

We were also disappointed with the Max XP2's one-year warranty, especially since some competing systems have three-year warranties. On a more positive note, next-business-day onsite repairs are included with the standard warranty. You may also opt to pay for one of the company's optional warranty and service upgrades.

The MicronPC Millennia Max XP2 provides top-notch performance at a good price. Spend the extra money to upgrade the monitor, and stick the unit under your desk where it won't be so noisy. Then watch your applications soar.

POLYWELL POLY 880KR-1300

EDITORS' RATING **7.5**

DESIGN	8	PERFORMANCE	8
EASE OF USE	7	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	8
FEATURES	7	VALUE	7

PROS: RAID-controlled dual 30GB drives; sleek metallic case; short-neck 19-inch monitor
CONS: Onsite service not included

The Polywell Poly 880KR-1300 isn't your basic me-too PC. Fully loaded with a 1.33GHz Athlon, 256MB of DDR SDRAM, and two RAID-controlled 30GB hard drives, this $3,287-direct system clearly targets power users in need of a fast and reliable system.

The Poly 880KR-1300 has two identical 30GB drives that are connected to an IDE RAID controller. The drives in our evaluation system were configured for RAID Level 0 (striping), allowing Windows to view them as a single drive for increased performance. Alternatively, you can set the controller to RAID Level 1 (mirroring), which causes the system to write all its data to both drives simultaneously.

The Poly raced through our benchmark tests, scoring 50.3 on Business Winstone 2001 and 55.8 on Content Creation Winstone 2001. This level of performance was topped only by that of the Xi MTower SP. On our Quake III Arena test, the Poly achieved the highest score we've seen so far, a stunning 178fps.

Our review system also included a Leadtek WinFast GeForce2 Ultra graphics card with 64MB of DDR RAM, a 16x/10x/40x Plextor CD-RW drive, a 16x Toshiba DVD drive, and a 19-inch ViewSonic GS790 monitor. The monitor remained

(continued on page 110)

< COMPUTER SHOPPER BENCHMARKS >

	Atlas Micro XS5000 (BEST BUY)	Compaq Presario 7000Z-1.2	MicronPC Millennia Max XP2	Polywell Poly 880KR-1300	Xi MTower SP (BEST BUY)
PROCESSOR TYPE	1.33GHz AMD Athlon	1.2GHz AMD Athlon	1.33GHz AMD Athlon	1.33GHz AMD Athlon	1.33GHz AMD Athlon
SYSTEM MEMORY	256MB DDR SDRAM	256MB DDR SDRAM	128MB DDR SDRAM	256MB DDR SDRAM	256MB DDR SDRAM
APPLICATION PERFORMANCE					
Business Winstone 2001	48.2	45.0	43.7	50.3	50.9
Content Creation Winstone 2001	55.4	53.9	44.7	55.8	57.0
GRAPHICS SUBSYSTEM					
Video Encoding (Minutes: Seconds)	01:30	01:37	01:29	01:29	01:35
Video Playback (CPU Utilization)	25%	26%	24%	22%	23%
3D GAMING FRAME TEST					
Quake III Arena (Frames per Second) (800x600 at 16-Bit Color)	155	144	151	178	157

Higher scores are better for all tests except Video Encoding and Video Playback.
All tests performed at 1,024 by 768 at 32-bit color and an 85Hz refresh rate, except where noted.

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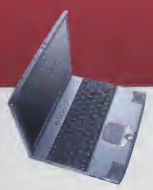
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(continued from page 105)

sharp and evenly focused up to a resolution of 1,600 by 1,200. Although it's a 19-inch monitor, the GS790 has a depth of just 16.2 inches, comparable to the depth of some 15-inch models. Mix in the Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Platinum 5.1 sound card and Cambridge SoundWorks PCWorks satellite-subwoofer speaker system, and you're all set for home theater.

The Poly 880KR-1300's tower case has a sleek metallic finish. Inside are two available PCI slots, one available internal 3.5-inch drive bay, and four available front-accessible drive bays (two 5.25-inch, and two 3.5-inch). It supports both DMI and Wake-on-LAN; our test unit also included a Realtek network card.



Polywell Poly 880KR-1300

The system's warranty and service are also well above average. It's covered by a three-year warranty on parts (five years on labor), as well as 24/7 toll-free technical support and 24-hour parts replacement for the first 60 days. You do have to pay extra for onsite service, however, which is available for $75 per year.

There's a lot to like about the Polywell Poly 880KR-1300. Its dual hard drives, RAID controller, and metallic cabinet are all pluses. If you're looking for workstation-level performance—without the workstation-level price—make sure this one is on your list.

XI MTOWER SP

EDITORS' RATING **7.7**

DESIGN	8	PERFORMANCE	9
EASE OF USE	7	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	8
FEATURES	7	VALUE	7

PROS: Very fast system; RAID-controlled dual 30GB drives; four available PCI slots; game-software bundle
CONS: No CD-RW drive; fan is a bit loud

ZDNet BEST BUY

The $2,550-direct Xi MTower SP comes about as close to a gamer's dream machine as we can imagine. At press time, it was the fastest system we'd ever tested (although that title is often up for grabs), with a

ATHLON DDR PCs

1.33GHz Athlon CPU, 256MB of DDR SDRAM, a 16x Pioneer DVD-ROM drive, and a Hercules 3D Prophet II Ultra graphics board with 64MB of DDR memory. Like the similarly equipped Polywell Poly 880KR-1300, our review system included RAID-controlled, dual 30GB hard drives.

While we typically associate a RAID controller and dual hard drives with a business computer, they actually make a lot of sense for a nonprofessional who wants to squeeze every last bit of performance from a highly tuned system. Business users would likely choose the RAID Level 1 setting for the security of instant data backup, whereas the home power user would probably prefer the RAID-0 setting that interweaves the two drives for a moderate boost in performance.

With its strong core components, the MTower cut right through some of our previous benchmark records. It scored a 50.9 on Business Winstone 2001, a 57 on Content Creation Winstone 2001, and a pixel-popping 157fps on the Quake III Arena test.

All this technological power is backed up by considerable room to grow. Inside the MTower's tower enclosure, four PCI slots, two front-accessible 5.25-inch bays, two internal 3.5-inch bays, and one front-accessible 3.5-inch bay are still available for future expansion. The fan is a bit loud for a home system, but not as loud as the fan in the Millennia Max XP2. The included 19-inch Optiquest Q95 monitor is reasonably sharp, with a 0.23mm horizontal (0.27mm diagonal) dot pitch. The audio subsystem consists of a Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live X-Gamer 5.1 sound card and an Altec Lansing ACS45.2 three-piece speaker system. The speakers aren't up to the standard of the Klipsch system included with the Compaq Presario 7000Z-1.2, but games and DVD movies sounded loud and clear.



Xi MTower SP

The Xi MTower SP has a three-year parts-and-labor warranty. Onsite service is included for the first year and costs $45 thereafter. Tech support is toll-free 24 hours a day.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

We were particularly pleased that these five systems target different groups of users. The Atlas Micro XS5000, one of our two Best Buy winners, is the budget-price entry, selling for about $1,000 less than the others. Surprisingly, the quality of its components and overall performance did not appear to be compromised. It's an unusual bargain that had us asking the company, "Are you sure that's the price?"

In the middle of the price spectrum, our second Best Buy winner, the Xi MTower SP, is perfect for serious game play, with RAID-configured dual disk drives and plenty of expansion room. It's fitting that the MTower, the fastest of these five systems, is being marketed to game fans, an audience that demands top-flight performance.

Still, it would be hard to go wrong with any of these systems. They're five of the fastest desktops we've evaluated to date, providing solid proof that the Athlon can indeed compete toe to toe with the Pentium 4. ▼

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< PRODUCT SUMMARY >

EDITORS' RATING (Rated 1 to 10)	7.7 ZDNet BEST BUY	7.2	7.0	7.5	7.7 ZDNet BEST BUY
SYSTEM	Atlas Micro XS5000	Compaq Presario 7000Z-1.2	MicronPC Millennia Max XP2	Polywell Poly 880KR-1300	Xi MTower SP
COMPANY	Atlas Micro Logistic City of Industry, CA 800-336-6898, 626-336-6899 *www.buy-atlas.com*	Compaq Computer Houston, TX 800-345-1518, 281-370-0670 *www.compaq.com*	MicronPC Meridian, ID 888-224-4247, 208-898-8970 *www.micronpc.com*	Polywell Computers S. San Francisco, CA 800-999-1278, 650-583-7222 *www.polywell.com*	Xi Computer San Clemente, CA 800-432-0486, 949-498-0858 *www.xicomputer.com*
DIRECT PRICE	$1,779 34455	$2,923 34456	$2,337 34457	$3,287 34458	$2,550 34459

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SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 114

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SOUND CARDS

HEARING IS BELIEVING

Though relatively few in number, today's multichannel sound cards deliver high-octane audio and effects.

Despite all the gloomy predictions of its imminent demise, the PC sound card is still alive and going strong, in no small part due to the growing popularity of 5.1-channel Dolby Digital sound and other multichannel audio formats.

Just a few years ago, low-cost software synthesizers and audio-enabled motherboards were poised to replace dedicated sound cards at a fraction of the cost. But instead of withering into obsolescence, sound-card technology diversified, spawning an array of new ways to add sound to a PC. Software and chip-based solutions are now found primarily in notebooks and in systems that require only basic MIDI output and two-channel audio, while 1990s-style stereo sound cards, today often selling for under $30, are routinely used to upgrade PCs that lack sound capabilities or are too slow for software-based solutions. At the extreme high end, multitrack digital-audio boards provide a relatively cost-effective way to convert a PC into a studio-ready digital-audio workstation.

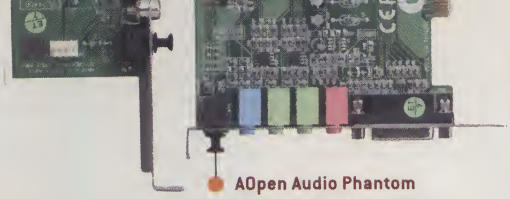
Smack in the middle are today's increasingly sophisticated consumer sound cards. Aimed at gamers and desktop-theater enthusiasts, these PCI-bus cards offer advanced features such as digital I/O, the ability to reproduce immersive four-channel game soundtracks and 5.1-channel DVD output, and powerful onboard digital signal processor (DSP) chips that provide wavetable MIDI synthesis, real-time sound effects, and hardware-based audio acceleration.

The trip hasn't been a smooth one. Five years ago, nearly a dozen major manufacturers competed in a thriving market, but today only a handful remain. The good news is that the survivors produce a broad variety of multichannel offerings that range from basic-black budget boards to high-end cards packed with comprehensive feature sets and accessory bundles. We look at the latest models from heavy hitters Creative Labs, Philips Consumer Electronics, and Voyetra Turtle Beach, as well as some of the first offerings from Abit Computer and AOpen America.

BY DON LABRIOLA


Sound Blaster Live!

SOUND CARDS



AOpen Audio Phantom AW744 Deluxe

ABIT HOME THEATER AU10

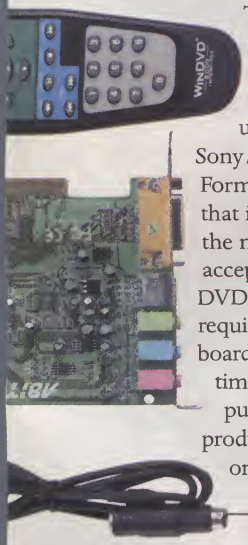
EDITORS' RATING **4.8**

EASE OF USE 3
FEATURES 5
SOUND QUALITY 4
VALUE 7

PROS: Great wireless remote; low price
CONS: No digital outputs; poor documentation

Abit Computer's $45 Home Theater AU10 is a no-frills board that provides analog multichannel output at a rock-bottom price.

The AU10 isn't a bad card for the money, but its skimpy documentation made installing our evaluation unit needlessly difficult.



The board initially appeared to have no digital I/O capabilities, but closer inspection revealed an unlabeled six-pin internal Sony/Philips Digital Interface Format (S/PDIF) connector that is mentioned only briefly in the manual. This connector will accept digital signals from a DVD or CD player, but it requires an optional daughterboard, not yet shipping at press time, to generate S/PDIF output. As a result, the AU10 can produce multichannel sound only through a set of three stereo line-out jacks. Few 5.1 desktop speakers are equipped with compatible six-channel inputs, although the board will work well enough with most four-channel systems.

Abit Home Theater AU10

Another weak point is the AU10's FortéMedia FM801 sound chip, which, at press time, didn't yet support the popular EAX 2.0 3D-sound API. Also, it provides no hardware wavetable-MIDI acceleration. The bundled Yamaha S-YXG50 SoftSynthesizer theoretically provides 64 software MIDI voices, but the board's CPU utilization is so high that we experienced MIDI and audio dropouts on our 450MHz test system long before reaching this limit.

The AU10's software bundle consists of a simple media-rack program and the excellent WinDVD 2000 DVD player, which includes integrated 5.1-channel Dolby Digital decoding capabilities. The card also ships with a terrific wireless remote that offers a full complement of CD- and DVD-player controls.

The Abit Home Theater AU10 is a relatively unsophisticated board that nonetheless offers a few nifty features. If you have the skill and patience to set it up, it will provide acceptable multichannel sound at an unbeatable price.

< FACT FILE >

Category Tested	**Multichannel Sound Cards**
Price Range	$45 to $199
Companies Included	Abit Computer, AOpen America, Creative Labs, Philips Consumer Electronics, Voyetra Turtle Beach
ZD Net BEST BUY	Voyetra Turtle Beach Santa Cruz

AOPEN AUDIO PHANTOM AW744 DELUXE

EDITORS' RATING **4.0**

EASE OF USE 4
FEATURES 4
SOUND QUALITY 5
VALUE 3

PROS: Optical S/PDIF output
CONS: No 5.1-channel output; no coaxial S/PDIF output; minimal documentation and software

It's hard to generate much enthusiasm for AOpen's Audio Phantom AW744 Deluxe. Despite its relatively high $95 estimated price, it lacks 5.1-channel output capabilities and can't match the comprehensive feature sets and software bundles offered by the less expensive cards in the roundup.

The AW744 Deluxe consists of a four-channel PCI sound card and an S/PDIF-in daughtercard that connect through a proprietary cable. The main card provides mic and line-in jacks, two stereo line-out jacks, a MIDI/joystick port, an internal S/PDIF-in

< FEATURE COMPARISON >

	Abit Home Theater AU10	AOpen Audio Phantom AW744 Deluxe	Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Platinum 5.1	Philips Acoustic Edge
MFR. EST. PRICE	$45	$95	$199	$99
No. of Output Channels	5.1	Four	5.1	5.1
DSP/Audio Accelerator Chip	FortéMedia FM801	Yamaha YMF744	E-mu EMU10K1	Philips ThunderBird Avenger
DirectMusic Support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Four-Channel APIs Supported	A3D, DS3D, EAX 1.0, Q3D	DS3D, EAX 2.0, Sensaura	DS3D, EAX 2.0, DS3D derivatives	A3D 1.0, DS3D, EAX 2.0, I3DS2
Dolby Digital Decoder	WinDVD 2000	None	Software (integrated)	PowerDVD
No. of Wavetable MIDI Voices	64 software (Yamaha S-YXG50 SoftSynthesizer)	64 hardware, 128 software (Sondius-XG Capital Synthesizer)	64 hardware, 1,024 software	64 hardware, 512 software (Yamaha S-YXG50 SoftSynthesizer)
Analog Audio Inputs	Mic, line in	Mic, line in	Mic, line in, left and right aux	Mic, line in
Analog Audio Outputs	Front line out, rear line out, center/sub line out	Front line out, rear line out	Front line out, rear line out, headphone	Front line out, rear line out, center/sub line out
Digital Audio Inputs	S/PDIF (pin connector)	S/PDIF (coax, optical, pin connector)	S/PDIF (coax, optical, pin connector)	S/PDIF (coax)
Digital Audio Outputs	S/PDIF (pin connector); requires optional daughterboard for external access	S/PDIF (optical)	S/PDIF (coax, optical, minijack)	S/PDIF (coax)
Internal Connectors	CD, video in, aux, TAD	CD1, CD2, aux, TAD	CD, aux, TAD	CD, aux, TAD
Other Connectors	MIDI/game	MIDI/game	MIDI/game, MIDI in, MIDI out	MIDI/game
Software Applications	EzAudio, WinDVD 2000, Adobe Acrobat Reader	Music Center, Y-Station, Soft Karaoke, MIDI Keyboard, WinDVD (45-day evaluation copy)	Deus Ex, MDK2, Thief II: The Metal Age, Unreal Tournament, MediaRing Talk, Oozic, PixMaker (Creative Edition), Mixman Studio, various Creative apps (PlayCenter 2, Keytar, Surround Mixer, Recorder, Rhythmania, WaveStudio), Cubasis VST/WaveLab/ReCycle Lite, Kool Karaoke, Prody Parrot	Siren XPress, AudioPix, Acid XPress
Accessories	Wireless remote, G9 cable	Optical S/PDIF cable	Mic and stand, wireless remote, drive-bay-mounted interface box, cables and mounting hardware	Analog and digital cables

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connector, and an external optical S/PDIF out. The daughterboard adds coaxial and optical digital inputs. The entire product consumes two back-panel plates and a single PCI slot.

The AW744 Deluxe ships with minimal documentation and application software, and the only bundled accessory is an optical S/PDIF cable. The card is based on the Yamaha YMF744 PCI audio chipset that, together with Yamaha's Sondius-XG Capital Synthesizer software, produces acceptable MIDI output. It doesn't support the Interactive 3D Audio Level 2 (I3DL2) or Aureal A3D APIs, however, although it does handle other popular audio and MIDI specifications, as well as legacy DOS standards such as Yamaha OPL3, Sound Blaster Pro, and Windows Sound System. Real-time effects are limited to a few reverb, chorus, and echo presets.

Surprisingly, the AW744 Deluxe's optical digital outputs are incompatible with the coaxial S/PDIF inputs found in most digital desktop speakers. The board also lacks Dolby Digital decoding and 5.1-channel outputs, although it will down-mix 5.1 signals for playback on four-channel speaker systems.

Overall, the AOpen Audio Phantom AW744 Deluxe demands too many compromises, and is hardly worth considering even if you're only interested in four-channel games. Most buyers will be better off with the Philips Acoustic Edge or the less expensive Voyetra Turtle Beach Santa Cruz.

Voyetra Turtle Beach Santa Cruz (ZDNet BEST BUY)
$79.95
5.1
Cirrus Logic Crystal CS4630 SoundFusion
Yes
A3D 1.0, DS3D, EAX 2.0, I3DL2, Sensaura MacroFX and MultiDrive
None
64 hardware, 1,024 software
Mic, line in, VersaJack (second line in)
Front line out, headphone/rear line out, VersaJack (can act as headphone, center, sub, or line out)
S/PDIF (pin connector)
S/PDIF (VersaJack)
CD, DVD/aux, TAD
MIDI/game, wavetable daughterboard header, S/PDIF-12S header for expansion
Santa Cruz Control Panel, various Voyetra apps (AudioStation 4.0, Digital Orchestrator, MIDI Orchestrator 32, SoundCheck, AudioView 32)
Analog CD-audio cable

SOUND CARDS

CREATIVE LABS SOUND BLASTER LIVE PLATINUM 5.1

EDITORS' RATING 8.5

EASE OF USE	9	SOUND QUALITY	9
FEATURES	9	VALUE	7

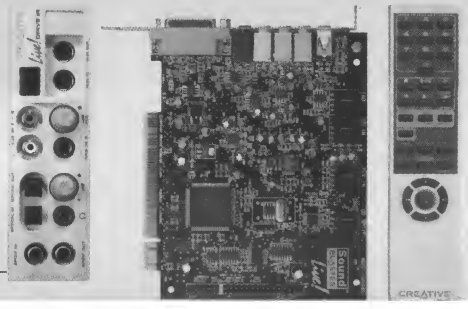
PROS: Large feature set; LiveDrive external I/O module; wireless remote; enormous software bundle
CONS: Expensive

The $199-estimated Sound Blaster Live Platinum 5.1 from Creative Labs is easily the costliest board included here, but in this case, you get what you pay for. Packed with high-end features and an over-the-top software bundle and selection of accessories, the Platinum 5.1 is arguably the most powerful and flexible sound board we've seen.

Prominent among its many strengths is the LiveDrive IR control-panel module, which mounts conveniently into an open 5.25-inch drive bay. In addition to providing discrete MIDI-in and -out jacks and multiple analog inputs, the LiveDrive offers such luxuries as bidirectional optical and coaxial S/PDIF I/O, headphone and microphone jacks with independent volume controls, and an infrared port that lets you control sound-card settings with a wireless remote.

The Platinum 5.1's robust multichannel capabilities include integrated Dolby Digital decoding, four-channel analog outputs, and a strong selection of 3D positional-sound and multichannel enhancements. Its E-mu EMU10K1 DSP chip provides highly efficient DirectSound and DirectSound 3D hardware acceleration, generates a huge array of high-quality effects, and doubles as a great-sounding 48-channel, 64-voice MIDI synth. If all this isn't enough, the Platinum 5.1 ships with a huge selection of applications and accessories, as well as a 1,024-voice software synthesizer that can store 32MB of user-downloadable custom instruments in host memory.

The Sound Blaster Live Platinum 5.1 is a powerful, flexible board that makes it easy to manage multiple multichannel sound sources on a single PC. Our biggest beef is its relatively high price, an issue that Creative addresses with its stripped-down



Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Platinum 5.1

The Ins and Outs of MULTICHANNEL SOUND

Okay, you've bought a $200 surround speaker system, a state-of-the-art 12x DVD-ROM, a dozen four-channel games, and a whole shelf full of DVDs. But you're still not sure what type of sound card you'll need to tie everything together.

Relax—it's easy. If you're primarily interested in games, simply choose a card with four-channel output. Any model equipped with two stereo line-out jacks will do the job, as long as it supports the major 3D-positional-sound gaming APIs, such as EAX 2.0 and DirectSound 3D.

If your speakers are among the few that lack analog inputs, or if you have your heart set on high-fidelity digital sound, choose a board equipped with a Sony/Philips Digital Interface Format (S/PDIF) output. A digital S/PDIF signal can carry all four channels (plus a mono mix for the subwoofer) across a single cable, and does so without the noise that plagues analog connections.

DVD fans should choose a sound card that generates 5.1-channel Dolby Digital output capable of driving five full-range satellite speakers and a subwoofer. Look for a card equipped with optical, coaxial, or 1/8-inch minijack S/PDIF-out connectors, as well as an internal S/PDIF-in pin connector. Boards that feature multichannel sound output through three analog stereo jacks (usually via a special nine-pin G9 connector and cable) are incompatible with most late-model 5.1 speakers.

You should also be sure that your computer is equipped with a Dolby Digital decoder, which translates DVD soundtrack data into a multichannel signal that can be played by 5.1 speakers. Dolby Digital decoders can be packaged as part of an MPEG-2 decoder board, integrated into a 5.1 speaker system, or included in a DVD-player software application such as CyberLink's PowerDVD. If you don't already own a hardware or software decoder, make sure that your 5.1 sound card includes one.

One last issue to consider is the ability to reconcile source material and speaker systems that have different numbers of channels. Look for a sound card that can remix two-channel sources, such as audio CDs and WAV files, for playback on 5.1- or four-channel speaker systems, as well as convert multichannel games and DVD soundtracks into stereo.

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SOUND CARDS

X-Gamer 5.1 and MP3+ 5.1 cards. These versions of the board lack the LiveDrive module and include smaller software bundles, but otherwise offer identical functionality at about half the price.

PHILIPS ACOUSTIC EDGE

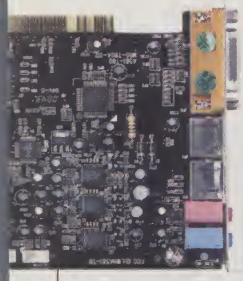
EDITORS' RATING **8.3**

EASE OF USE	9	SOUND QUALITY	9
FEATURES	7	VALUE	8

PROS: Flexible multichannel support; reasonable price
CONS: No optical outputs

The $99 Philips Acoustic Edge is a mid-price board designed for maximum flexibility in any type of multichannel environment. It doesn't offer all the amenities of the Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Platinum 5.1 or the Voyetra Turtle Beach Santa Cruz, but it's a well-designed, good-sounding card that ought to satisfy most buyers.

In addition to standard mic-in, line-in, and MIDI/game ports, the Acoustic Edge is equipped with coaxial S/PDIF-input and -output connectors and three pairs of analog stereo outputs. It lacks the optical interfaces needed to attach some late-model disc players and game consoles, but it should have no problem connecting to any other type of sound source or multichannel speaker system.



Philips Acoustic Edge

The Acoustic Edge features a great selection of remixing capabilities. Not only can it expand stereo signals—even internally generated MIDI and MP3 output—into four or 5.1 distinct channels of sound, it can also retain 180 degrees of 3D imaging when playing multichannel audio through two speakers. Playing stereo CDs on our test system's 5.1-channel speaker system, the board convincingly synthesized discrete center and surround channels that truly seemed to contain different sounds than the front left and right channels. And its Philips ThunderBird Avenger DSP chip produced realistic MIDI output comparable to anything we've heard from a sound-card synthesizer.

The board also ships with a competitive bundle of application software that includes Sonic Foundry's Siren XPress digital-music player/ripper/organizer and Acid XPress composing software, as well as the AudioPix MP3 slide-show utility and a full version of CyberLink's PowerDVD.

Whether you play stereo CDs, multichannel games, or video DVDs, the Philips Acoustic Edge provides a flexible and cost-effective way to reproduce virtually any sound source on two-, four-, or 5.1-channel speaker systems.

VOYETRA TURTLE BEACH SANTA CRUZ

EDITORS' RATING **8.8**

EASE OF USE	9	SOUND QUALITY	9
FEATURES	8	VALUE	9

PROS: Flexible I/O; superior API support; generous software bundle; low price
CONS: No optical outputs; no Dolby Digital decoder

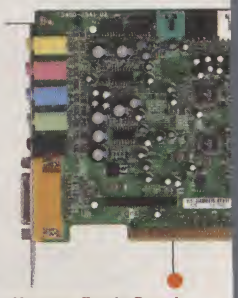
ZDNet BEST BUY

Selling for about $80, Voyetra Turtle Beach's Santa Cruz is one of the most sophisticated sound cards we've tested.

At its heart is a Cirrus Logic smart DSP chip that optimizes itself on the fly to most acceleration tasks, such as MP3 decoding, MIDI synthesis, acoustic-echo cancellation, and 3D-sound processing. This greatly reduces the load on your PC's host processor when playing CPU-intensive four-channel games, 5.1 DVD soundtracks, or high-bit-rate digital-music files.

Just as innovative is the Santa Cruz's flexible I/O configuration. In addition to standard mic and line-in jacks, the board features four-channel analog outputs and a multipurpose VersaJack connector that can be used as a third stereo line-out, a second line-in for four-channel recording, a spare headphone jack, or an S/PDIF output.

The Santa Cruz offers an excellent selection of digital effects and even lets you personalize 3D-sound parameters to match the specific characteristics of your ears. Its good-sounding General MIDI synthesizer provides 64 hardware and 1,024 software voices, full compatibility with Yamaha's GS MIDI specification, and the ability to use unlimited amounts of system RAM to store downloaded wavetable samples. Like most Turtle Beach sound cards, the Santa Cruz also ships with the robust Voyetra suite of MIDI/audio applications, which includes composition and editing programs, MP3 utilities, a flexible 10-band equalizer, and a powerful audio-waveform editor.



Voyetra Turtle Beach Santa Cruz

Factor in the board's excellent documentation, simple installation procedures, low noise levels, and high-resolution 18-bit analog-to-digital and 20-bit digital-to-analog converters, and you have a card that's powerful, flexible, and produces great-sounding output. Despite the fact that it was one of only two products we looked at to lack a bundled software DVD decoder, we consider the Voyetra Turtle Beach Santa Cruz a bona fide bargain.

LISTEN UP

Producing a top-notch multichannel sound card is tougher than it looks. Despite extensive experience building other types of components, neither Abit nor AOpen has yet gained the experience to compete effectively with veterans Creative Labs, Philips, and Turtle Beach. Still, all of the products we tested do have something special to offer, even if it's just a low price. There may be fewer sound cards on the market these days, but it's still possible to find a model to suit almost any need. ▼

< PRODUCT SUMMARY >

EDITORS' RATING (Rated 1 to 10)	4.8	4.0	8.5	8.3	8.8 ZDNet BEST BUY
PRODUCT	Abit Home Theater AU10	AOpen Audio Phantom AW744 Deluxe	Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Platinum 5.1	Philips Acoustic Edge	Voyetra Turtle Beach Santa Cruz
COMPANY	Abit Computer Fremont, CA 510-623-0500 *www.abit.com.tw*	AOpen America San Jose, CA 888-852-6736 *www.aopen.com*	Creative Labs Milpitas, CA 800-998-1000 *www.creative.com*	Philips Consumer Electronics Atlanta, GA 800-835-3506 *www.philipsusa.com*	Voyetra Turtle Beach Yonkers, NY 800-233-9377 *www.turtle-beach.com*
MFR. EST. PRICE	$45 34450	$95 34451	$199 34452	$99 34453	$79.95 34454

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*Product and prices subject to change.

SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO PERSONAL PRINTERS

Get Personal With a Printer

by David English

How to Pinpoint The Printer That's Right for You



While printers are arguably the most crucial peripheral you can buy for your computer, they need not be the costliest. Now you can get a good inkjet unit for less than $100, and even laser printers can be had for less than $300. Of course, if you need a color laser printer or a model with advanced features, you'll pay more.

For the average home user, however, the inkjet is the preferred printer. And its popularity shows no sign of slowing, says Paula Bursley, principal analyst with Gartner Group's Dataquest research firm. In 1997, inkjets comprised 72.5 percent of all single-function printers shipped in the United States; they jumped to 82.5 percent by the year 2000. Concurrently, page printers, which consist mostly of laser printers, dropped from 19.2 percent to 14.3 percent.

Inkjets and lasers are the most popular breeds, but you can also consider a couple of other classes: multifunction printers and dedicated photo printers. In specific situations, like a cramped home office for the former or a digital-imaging enthusiast's workshop for the latter, these may be the technologies of choice.

Of course, you have to choose the best printer based on your usage patterns. Whether you prefer an inkjet, laser, multifunction, photo, or some other kind of printer will depend on the type of printing you'll do, and on how much you're willing to spend on the printer and on consumables over its lifetime.

Inexpensive Inkjets

Those shopping for an inexpensive all-purpose printer would be well-advised to flock with the masses toward an inkjet. These low-cost machines print text nicely (though not as crisply as a laser printer) and can output graphics and photos almost as well as a dedicated photo printer.

Many inkjets are available for less than $100, and most of these deliver good-quality 600dpi color printing at a rated speed of about 6 pages per minute (ppm). These include Canon's $79 S400 Color Bubble Jet, Epson's $69 Stylus Color 580, Hewlett-Packard's $79 DeskJet 630C, and Lexmark's $89 Z33 Color Jetprinter.

Many of the low-end models are so-called "three-color" inkjet printers, which combine the three ink colors to make a composite black. Others, such as the $99 Lexmark Z43, have two cartridge slots, one for color and one for black. Manufacturers often refer to their three-color inkjets as "four-color" printers when they employ a three-color cartridge with a black cartridge.

Some models enable you to further expand your printing palette by swapping out the black cartridge for a photo cartridge, essentially turning the unit into a photo printer. The combined color and photo cartridges produce six ink colors, which can be mixed on the page to paint a wider range of subtle colors. That's great for photos, but you'll need to switch back to the black cartridge for text; otherwise, your black text will be a dark brown. If you're shopping for a three-color model and want to print quality photos, be sure to ask if the manufacturer offers a photo cartridge. If you don't want to change cartridges to switch between text and photos, pay a bit more to purchase a six-color printer.

A great six-color option is the $499 Epson Stylus Photo 1280. It flawlessly prints images of stunning clarity and saturation, and it can spit out good-quality (albeit costly) text pages, too. A more affordable six-color printer is Canon's $199 BJC-8200 Color Bubble Jet, which uses 1,536 tiny nozzles to apply its ink drops more precisely than competing printers. It features a 1,200dpi resolution, large ink tanks for fewer refills, and an optional color-scanner module.

Despite their popularity, inkjets do have a distinct disadvantage: the cost of consumables. A simple page of text can cost 2 to 3 cents to print, compared with 1 to 2 cents for printing a comparable page on a laser. A page of color graphics printed on regular paper can run about 10 to 20 cents a page, and a photo printed on 8.5-by-11-inch glossy stock costs 50 cents to $1.80, depending on paper quality. For occasional use, these costs may be insignificant. But if you do lots of graphics or photo printing, you may find yourself wincing every time you hit the Print key.



▲ Epson Stylus Color 580



▲ Brother HL-1250

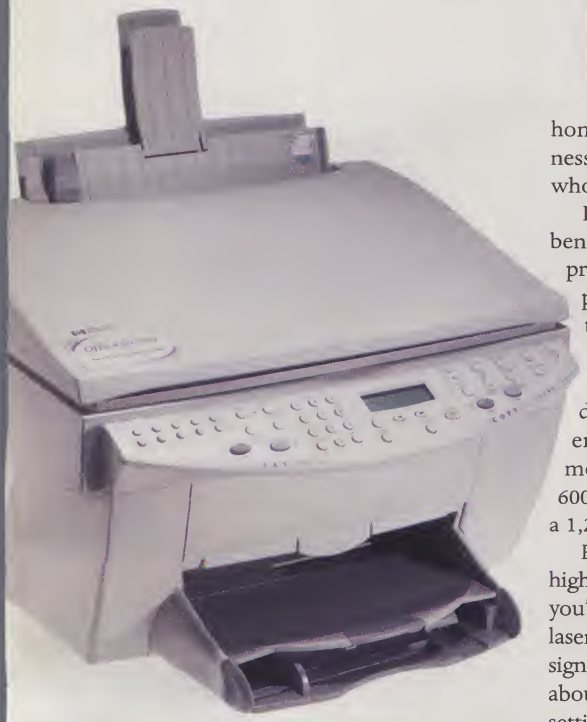
Laser Sharp

While inkjets are often the best all-around solution, laser printers are tops for text-only printing. They're the better choice for a

Print Drivers

If You Print	And Want	Go With	Keep in Mind
Business Correspondence	Acceptable output	Inkjet	Text quality varies; check print samples.
	Outstanding output	Laser	Try a 1,200dpi printer for near-book-quality text.
Color Graphics	Superior output on a budget	Inkjet	Choose premium print paper for best results.
	Sharper text, average graphics	Color laser	Colored toner is less likely to smear or fade.
Photo Prints	Hobbyist-quality images	Inkjet	Dot patterns may be visible in photos.
	Professional-quality images	Dye-sublimation	Creates photo-like continuous-tone prints.

SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO PERSONAL PRINTERS



▲ HP OfficeJet G85xi



▲ Lexmark Z43 Color Jetprinter



▲ Minolta-QMS PagePro 1100L

home office that pumps out reams of business correspondence or a college student who writes a lot of papers and reports.

For most buyers, sharp text is the main benefit of a laser. The ink from an inkjet printer tends to spread when it strikes the page. (It has to be fluid enough to spray through an inkjet nozzle.) Laser printers fuse black toner to the page with heat, and because toner technology plots dots with greater precision, a laser printer generates type that's smoother and more uniform. Bottom line: Text from a 600dpi laser will look better than text from a 1,200dpi inkjet.

Even though the purchase price is usually higher than it would be for an inkjet printer, you'll save money over the long haul with the laser's lower-cost consumables. Lasers are also significantly faster than inkjets, usually rated about 8ppm to 12ppm using the best-mode setting. By contrast, inkjet printers are usually rated about 2ppm to 4ppm for best-mode monochrome printouts.

The cost and capabilities of laser printers vary considerably. At the low end are models such as the $279 Minolta-QMS 1100L, a unit with 4MB of memory that serves up 600dpi printing at a rated speed of 10ppm. At the higher end, the $799 HP LaserJet 2200dse includes capabilities such as 1,200dpi printing, a rated speed of 19ppm, two-sided printing, and 8MB of memory, expandable to 72MB. The more you pay, the more likely you'll get advanced features like two-sided printing, a 1,000-page paper capacity, built-in PostScript (useful for some desktop-publishing applications), and a faster processor for speedier printing.

You may also get more memory, which is an important consideration with lasers because these printers store and print an entire page at a time (hence the term "page printers"). A laser low on RAM may print slowly or choke on graphics-laden pages. Look for a minimum of 2MB of memory, preferably 4MB or 8MB, when shopping for a desktop laser.

Also consider that most laser printers have one or more empty slots for memory expansion. At a bare minimum, you should be able to double the built-in RAM. If you plan to print graphics-heavy documents, be sure to inquire about the memory specifications. Also ask whether the printer uses standard DIMMs or SIMMs, or requires a more expensive proprietary form of memory.

Sub-$300 lasers may have as little as 2MB of memory, while $300-to-$1,000 laser printers usually have 4MB or more built in with the capability of expanding to 64MB or more. For example, Brother's $299 HL-1240 offers 600dpi printing, a rated speed of 12ppm, and 2MB of memory (which can't be expanded), while the $399 HP LaserJet 1200se features 1,200dpi printing, a rated speed of 15ppm, and 8MB of memory that's expandable to 72MB.

You'll need even more memory for color lasers, which now start at around $1,000. For example, the Minolta-QMS Magicolor 2200 DeskLaser ($1,299; $999 after a $300 mail-in rebate) features 1,200-by-600dpi color printing, a rated speed of 2.5ppm, and 32MB of memory. HP's 600dpi Color LaserJet 4550, which sells for $1,999, comes equipped with 64MB of RAM and can be boosted to 192MB.

More With Multifunctions

Like a Swiss Army knife, a multifunction printer bundles several devices, such as a printer, scanner, fax machine, and copier, into a single package. They're ideal for small or home offices, saving you cash and space by combining several machines into one. And you can eliminate connection headaches by having all the functions linked through a single USB port.

One caveat: A multifunction device probably won't deliver the best-quality scanner, fax, or copier. If output quality is critical, you may be better off with separate components. Similarly, when your multifunction printer needs to be repaired, you'll lose all the functions until the unit is returned.

Expect to pay between $200 and $800 for a multifunction printer. As the price

Adding It Up

User	Likely Printer	Typical Printer Purchase Price	Average Use	Typical Cost Per Print	Three-Year Cost of Consumables	Total Three-Year Cost
Family	Inkjet	$200	60 color prints per month on plain paper	15 cents	$324	$524
Home Office	Laser on plain paper	$500	300 pages per month	2 cents	$216	$716
Photo Hobbyist	Inkjet	$400	30 color prints per month on premium paper	80 cents	$864	$1,264
Photo Enthusiast	Full-page dye-sublimation printer	$1,000	30 photo prints per month on special paper	$1.90	$2,052	$3,052

increases, you should gain additional features and higher quality from each function. An excellent example of great value at the low end is Lexmark's $199 Z82, which fuses a 1,200dpi color inkjet printer, 300-by-600dpi color flatbed scanner, and 300-by-600dpi color copier.

Models in the HP OfficeJet series of multifunction printers cost up to $799, but their features, resolutions, and software bundles are comparable to those of higher-quality stand-alone devices. For example, in addition to its 2,400-by-1,200dpi color inkjet printing (using photo paper), the $599 HP OfficeJet G85xi delivers 300dpi color faxing with 125 pages of fax memory, 600-by-3,600dpi optical-resolution color scanning, and 600-by-2,400dpi color copying. If you prefer a laser printer, consider Brother's $399 MFC-8300. It combines a 600dpi laser printer, a 600dpi monochrome copier, and 64-shade gray-scale faxing.

Optimized Output

3 ESSENTIAL ZDNET DOWNLOADS

- **FinePrint 2000**
  Print many pages on a single sheet.
- **KazStamp (32-bit)**
  Print custom envelopes.
- **PrintChef**
  Use a versatile printer driver.

ZDNet DOWNLOAD THEM NOW FROM
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Photo Labs

Several years ago, a bumper crop of specialized photo printers sprouted up. Some are still available, but they're much harder to find. That's because the steady improvement in the graphics capabilities of inkjet printers has largely eclipsed the need for dedicated photo units.

In fact, when used with high-gloss photo papers, the latest generation of inkjets, such as HP's PhotoSmart and Epson's Stylus Photo lines, comes fairly close to the quality of dye-sublimation photo printers. Also, most dedicated photo printers do a terrible job with text, so for many people it makes sense to purchase a general-purpose inkjet and use high-gloss photo papers for occasional photo printing.

Look for manufacturers that use proprietary technologies to optimize the print resolution of their photo-quality inkjets. For example, the $299 HP DeskJet 970Cse features HP's PhotoREt III color-layering technology. It creates subtle shades of color by placing the color dots on top of each other, rather than in clusters of dots. With printers that employ clusters of dots, the usable resolution can decrease as you increase the number of available colors.

Because the gap between dedicated photo printers and higher-quality inkjets has narrowed, you should consider a specialized photo printer only if you need and are willing to pay for the best quality. Also note that, these days, the phrase "photo printer" is just as likely to be used to describe an inkjet with advanced graphics capabilities as it is a printer that only prints photographs.

Dedicated photo printers that specialize in snapshot-size prints include Sony's $349.95 DPP-SV55, which produces 4-by-6-inch dye-sublimation prints in about 90 seconds, and Olympus' $399.95 P-330, which prints 3.4-by-4.5-inch dye-sublimation prints in about 2 minutes.

In casual comparisons, we pitted the output of a top dye-sublimation printer against that of a top photo-capable inkjet printer. The $999 Olympus P-400 creates beautiful continuous-tone 8.3-by-11.7-inch photos that cost about $1.90 per print in consumables. Surprisingly, prints made with the HP DeskJet 970Cse were almost as good. They were printed on 8.5-by-11-inch HP Premium Plus Photo Paper for a consumables cost of about $1.71. Look closely, and you can see dots instead of the continuous tones, but from a distance, the quality appears comparable.

Prints Charming

No matter what type of printer you choose, try to see print samples before you buy. You may think the text from an inkjet looks great until you see it side by side with the text from a laser printer.

Also, be sure to ask about the warranty and service. Because they're mechanical devices with moving parts, printers can be prone to breakdowns. Find out before you buy whether you'll have onsite service, who pays for shipping if an offsite repair is required, and what hours technical support is available. Prices may be lower than ever before, but the level of service and support should still be high.

Because today's prices are so reasonable, you may find it's worth it to pay a little more for better support, or to purchase an extension to the usual one-year warranty. Few things are more frustrating than a paralyzed printer, especially when important deadlines are looming—or when you're printing your child's first-birthday pics for the in-laws. ▼

Portable Print Shops

For those on the go, a portable printer can be the perfect accessory for a notebook, PDA, or digital camera. Portable models are especially handy for business travelers who need to print documents on the road or vacationers who want to leave photos behind when visiting friends or relatives.

Most portable printers employ inkjet technology to achieve a lightweight, small form factor. Hewlett-Packard's 4.3-pound, $269 DeskJet 350c has both parallel and USB ports, and supports infrared communications via a $39 adapter. It prints 600dpi by 300dpi in color and 600dpi in monochrome. The optional nickel-metal-hydride (NiMH) rechargeable battery, which costs $49, perseveres for about 130 pages.

Even lighter is Canon's 2-pound, $349 BJC-50 Color Bubble Jet Printer, which prints about 100 pages on a single charge of its lithium-ion battery. The resolution is 720dpi by 360dpi for both color and monochrome. It has a parallel-port interface, as well as a Fast Infrared port for wireless printing. The BJC-50 also has an optional cartridge that transforms the unit into a color sheetfed scanner.

Thermal-fusion printers, which use heat to transfer the image to paper, are even more portable. Citizen's $245.99 PN 60i, for instance, weighs just 1.5 pounds with battery. It prints on plain paper at 360dpi in both color and monochrome; expect about 30 to 40 pages from each charge of the optional nickel-cadmium battery.

An even lighter thermal-fusion model is SiPix's $149 Pocket Printer A6, which tips the scales at 14 ounces with its four AA batteries and a roll of paper (8.8 ounces without). A monochrome model, the A6 has a 400dpi resolution and prints to 4.1-inch-wide paper. Palm and Handspring Visor users will appreciate the specialized drivers written especially for them. And although the A6 is designed primarily for infrared connectivity, it still includes a serial port and cable.

One of the most unusual portable printers is Olympus' $449 Camedia P-200. It's a 2-pound dye-sublimation unit that makes an ideal companion for digital photographers. The P-200 accepts both SmartMedia and CompactFlash (Type I and Type II) cards, so you don't have to bring your notebook along. (Optional parallel-port and USB connection kits are available, however.) It can be powered by either an NiMH battery or an AC adapter. The print paper measures a snapshot-size 3.1 inches by 4.9 inches, with a print area of 3 inches by 4 inches.

SITE-DESIGN TOOLS

Sensational Site Design

BY DAVID ENGLISH



SITE-DESIGN TOOLS

SO YOU WANT TO CREATE A WEB SITE?

With more than a billion unique Web pages on the Internet, you have plenty of competition. To stand out, you need to make your content compelling, your pages easy to navigate, and your design appealing. Fortunately, Web layout programs can make creating a high-quality site relatively easy.

Some of these programs include templates with prepackaged themes or styles. Just add your content, and the program will produce a ready-made site, complete with color-coordinated buttons, background graphics, and navigational tools. Or if you're more independent-minded, import your own elements and just use the Web layout program as a convenient way to structure and maintain the site.

While HTML editors target programmers, Web layout programs target people who can't or don't want to write code. Some Web layout titles are better than others at accommodating preexisting HTML code. If you don't need to work with HTML, this is not an issue. However, if you want your site to be accessible to HTML programmers, this can be a crucial consideration.

Keep in mind that the sites you design with one Web layout program usually can't be transferred to another without time-consuming modifications. Just as you can't easily move your finished brochure between desktop-publishing programs, you can't easily move a completed Web site between layout programs.

To help you find the best tool for the job, we've rounded up five of the top Web-site design programs. If you're looking to create a quality site with a minimal amount of technical expertise and training, these are the applications to consider. And if you'd like a step-by-step overview of how to build a site, see "Your Own Digital Domain" in this month's Help & How-To section.

ADOBE GOLIVE 5.0

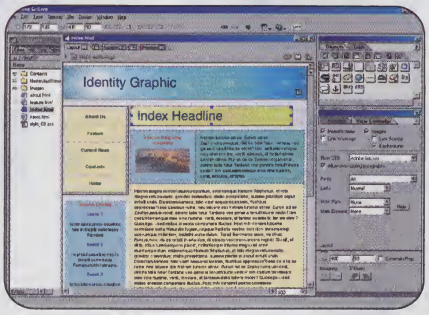
EDITORS' RATING 7.4

EASE OF USE	8	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	7
FEATURES	8	VALUE	7
PERFORMANCE	7		

PROS: Doesn't reformat HTML code; drag-and-drop compatibility with Photoshop, Illustrator, and LiveMotion; Flash and SVG support; built-in QuickTime editor

CONS: Crashes occasionally; doesn't support CMYK images

In many offices, Web-site design is a cooperative effort between the programmers and the design department. The $299 Adobe GoLive 5.0 bridges the gap between these two groups. For designers, this latest version lets you drag and drop your Photoshop, Illustrator, and LiveMotion files into GoLive. You can import Photoshop layers and automatically convert them to user-defined Web elements, such as JavaScript actions and Dynamic HTML (DHTML) timelines. Programmers, on the other hand, will appreciate that GoLive 5.0 doesn't have to reformat existing HTML code. Web pages can be passed back and forth without the programmers having to struggle with proprietary code. In a bid to be the central application for all your Web layout needs, GoLive 5.0 supports Flash and Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG), and it even has a built-in QuickTime Editor.



Adobe GoLive 5.0

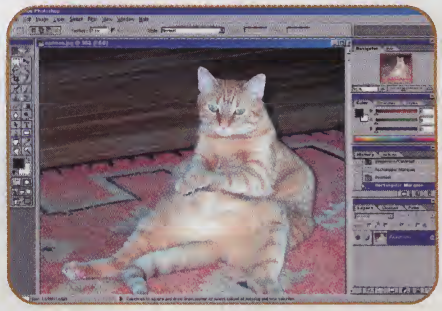
This latest version of the program can be both satisfying and frustrating to use. Many complex Web functions are represented as icons that you simply drag onto a page. These include frame-layout arrangements, rollover buttons, Java applets, checkboxes, RealAudio files, and URL popups. The frustration comes with program crashes. In our experience running GoLive on three different machines, one crashed frequently when the program was running, another crashed occasionally, and the third didn't crash at all. Another potential annoyance is that the program doesn't support CMYK images or FrontPage server extensions.

Although it's still a bit rough around the edges, Adobe GoLive 5.0 shows great promise. It's competitive with Macromedia Dreamweaver 4.0 and NetObjects Fusion MX in the complexity of the sites it can create. And for environments using a lot of Adobe products, the intelligent file transfer with other Adobe applications is a terrific time-saver.

Your DESIGN ARSENAL

You're armed with your Web-site layout program of choice—now what? It takes more than a strong Web-authoring program to create an appealing site. You'll need supplementary software to help you design your content—especially if you want lots of graphics and animation.

Full-featured graphics-editing programs, such as the $609 Adobe Photoshop 6.0 and $89.95 Ulead PhotoImpact 6, help you create rollover buttons, animate GIF files, and preview the trade-offs between image quality and file size when you compress your graphics to JPEG files. Macromedia's $299 Fireworks 4 is a Web-specific graphics program that provides both bitmap and vector tools. You can use it to add interactivity to your graphics.


Adobe Photoshop 6.0

For professional-quality animation complete with sound, take a look at Macromedia's $399 Flash 5. Because it uses vector graphics, the resulting files download very quickly. Adobe LiveMotion, selling for $299, is a similar Web-animation program. It supports both Flash files and animated GIFs. For animated 3D titles and motion effects, Ulead's $49.95 Cool 3D 3.0 lets you draw a simple path and have your text follow that same path. With it, you can blast your Web text into pieces, blur its motion, or sculpt the letters from simulated stone. And if you plan to add streaming video to your site, check out Adobe Premiere 6.0, available for $549. It offers cross-platform support for the leading Web video formats.

ILLUSTRATION BY CARY HENRIE

PRICED TO *MOVE*. YOU *DE*CIDE *WHERE*.



Whether for use at home, work or on a deserted island, we have more than enough notebook options to meet your needs. With prices starting at just $999, they're sure to meet your budget as well. And with features like Next-Business-Day On-Site Service[4], they'll always meet your itinerary. Now add our TrueMobile™ Wireless Technology solutions[41] and turn that deserted island into your personal communications hub (we won't tell that it's just your kid's sandbox).

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- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 1-Yr Ltd Warranty[2], 1-Yr Mail-in Service, 1-Yr Phone Tech Support

$999 E-VALUE CODE 05012-890609

BUSINESS LEASE: $28/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- 3-Yr Mail-in Service with Lifetime Phone Tech Support, add $99
- Upgrade to 14.1" XGA TFT Display, add $149

DELL™ NOTEBOOKS:

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 4000

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- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 700MHz
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- 26.5WHr Li-Ion Battery w/ExpressCharge™ Technology
- Internal Mini-PCI 56K Capable[6] Modem
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- 1-Yr Ltd Warranty[2], 1-Yr Mail-in Service, 1-Yr Phone Tech Support

$1299 E-VALUE CODE 05012-890612

BUSINESS LEASE: $36/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service[4] with Lifetime Phone Tech Support, add $219
- Upgrade to 128MB 100MHz SDRAM, add $75

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 4000

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- 64MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 5GB[5] Ultra ATA HD
- Modular 24X Max Variable CD-ROM
- 8MB ATI® Rage Mobility™ 128 3D® Video, 2X AGP
- 26.5WHr Li-Ion Battery w/ExpressCharge™ Technology
- Internal Mini-PCI 56K Capable[6] Modem
- MS® Office XP Small Business
- MS® Windows® Me
- 1-Yr Ltd Warranty[2], 1-Yr Mail-in Service, 1-Yr Phone Tech Support

$1499 E-VALUE CODE 05012-890614

BUSINESS LEASE: $41/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- Upgrade to 10GB[5] Ultra ATA HD, add $49
- Internal Mini-PCI Dell™ TrueMobile™ 1150 Wireless NIC[41] Card, add $99

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 8000

Pinnacle of Performance Notebook

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- 64MB 100MHz SDRAM ■ 10GB[5] Ultra ATA HD
- Fixed CD-ROM (Upgrade to CD-RW or DVD)
- Modular Floppy (Upgrade to Optical or Zip)
- 8MB ATI® Mobility™-M4 3D® Video, 4X AGP
- 59WHr Li-Ion Battery w/ExpressCharge™ Technology
- Internal Mini-PCI 56K Capable[6] Modem
- MS® Office XP Small Business
- MS® Windows® Me
- 1-Yr Ltd Warranty[2], 1-Yr Mail-in Service, 1-Yr Phone Tech Support

$1849 E-VALUE CODE 05012-890618

BUSINESS LEASE: $51/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- NEW Fixed Internal CD-RW/DVD Combo Drive, add $399

DELL™ NOTEBOOKS:

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 8000

Pinnacle of Performance Notebook

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- 15" Super XGA+ TFT Display
- 128MB 100MHz SDRAM ■ 10GB[5] Ultra ATA HD
- Fixed CD-ROM (Upgrade to CD-RW or DVD)
- Modular Floppy (Upgrade to Optical or Zip)
- 8MB ATI® Mobility™-M4 3D® Video, 4X AGP
- 59WHr Li-Ion Battery w/ExpressCharge™ Technology
- Internal Mini-PCI 56K Capable[6] Modem
- MS® Office XP Small Business ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 1-Yr Ltd Warranty,[2] 1-Yr Mail-in Service, 1-Yr Phone Tech Support

$2229 E•VALUE CODE 05012-890622

BUSINESS LEASE: $62/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- Upgrade to 16MB DDR 4X AGP NVIDIA® GeForce2 Go™ 3D® Video, add $149

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BUSINESS LEASE: $37/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

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- 1-Yr NBD On-Site Service[4]

$1969 E•VALUE CODE 05012-790619

BUSINESS LEASE: $54/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

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- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service[4] with CompleteCare™ Service[20], add $309

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$2059 E•VALUE CODE 05012-790620

BUSINESS LEASE: $57/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- Integrated Mini-PCI 802.11b Wireless LAN[41] Card, add $99
- Upgrade to CompleteCare™ Service[20], add $169

DELL™ LATITUDE™ C600

Network-Optimized and Wireless-Ready

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- 8MB ATI® Mobility™ 128 Video, 2X AGP
- MS® Windows® 2000 Professional
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- Integrated Mini-PCI V.90/56K Capable[6] Modem
- Li-Ion Battery w/ExpressCharge™ Technology
- Dual Pointing – Touchpad and Pointing Stick
- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service[4]

$2259 E•VALUE CODE 05012-790622a

BUSINESS LEASE: $62/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

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- Integrated Mini-PCI V.90/56K Capable[6] Modem
- Li-Ion Battery w/ExpressCharge™ Technology
- Dual Pointing – Touchpad and Pointing Stick
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$2259 E•VALUE CODE 05012-790622

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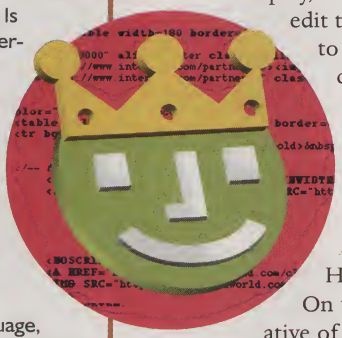
SITE-DESIGN TOOLS

Where CODE IS KING

Anyone who'd rather write HTML code than drag and drop Web elements onto a page should probably be shopping for an HTML editor. Layout-based Web-design programs resemble desktop-publishing apps, and HTML editors resemble word processors. Just as you can do limited desktop publishing with a word processor, many of the HTML editor programs offer limited drag-and-drop capabilities.

One of the most popular HTML editors, the $99 Allaire HomeSite 4.5, lets you customize its various windows, toolbars, and resource panels. According to Allaire, the program has a What You See Is What You Need (WYSIWYN) interface instead of the What You See Is What You Get (WYSIWYG) interface typical of layout programs. Because it isn't trying to duplicate what your Web site will look like, HomeSite can provide useful information inside the code listings. The program's edit view provides color-coding support for Active Server Pages, Cold Fusion Markup Language, Cascading Style Sheets, Dynamic HTML (DHTML), JavaScript, and VBScript. Various specialized components let you edit tags, preview thumbnail images, and create image maps.

Other HTML editors worth considering include CoffeeCup Software's $49 CoffeeCup HTML Editor 8.8. It's a good beginner's editor with a built-in spell-checker. Namo's $99 WebEditor 4.0 is a Korean import with strong support for Cascading Style Sheets and Web-linked databases. Sausage Software's $99.95 HotDog Professional 6 lets you simultaneously view the source code from two documents, as well as search within a document for a specific tag, line number, character, or code error.



HOTMETAL PRO 6.0

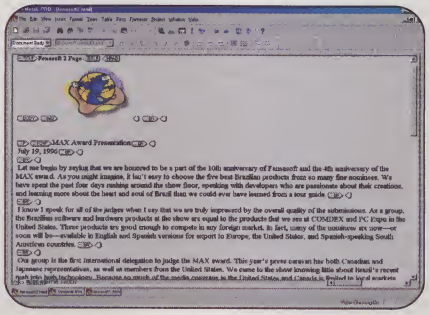
EDITORS' RATING **7.4**

EASE OF USE	6	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	7
FEATURES	8	VALUE	9
PERFORMANCE	7		

PROS: Tags On view; 5,000 Web graphics; self-study courses; preprogrammed scripts
CONS: Layout view not as strong as those of competing layout programs

You may have a difficult time deciding whether SoftQuad Software's $69.95 HoTMetaL Pro 6.0 is a layout program with an HTML editor attached or an HTML editor with a layout program attached. It does an excellent job of straddling the fence between the designer's perspective and the programmer's.

The program has three editing views. The WYSIWYG view emulates a browser display, except that you're free to edit the contents. It's similar to the standard view in competing Web layout programs. An HTML Source view provides direct access to the underlying HTML code. It's similar to the standard view in an HTML editor. The Tags On view is the most innovative of the three and proves useful to those learning to write HTML code. It combines the WYSIWYG display with the onscreen tags of an HTML editor. For Web designers with one foot in each camp, it's a clever compromise that brings out the best of both worlds.



HoTMetaL Pro 6.0

HoTMetaL Pro 6.0 has additional components that make it a good choice for someone just starting out with Web design and programming. The package includes 5,000 Web graphics, including clip art, animations, and backgrounds, as well as a library of preprogrammed DHTML scripts and Cascading Style Sheets. You'll also find the applications Ulead PhotoImpact and WS_FTP Pro 6.0, plus self-study courses on HTML, JavaScript, and Cascading Style Sheets.

Although the layout portion of HoTMetaL Pro 6.0 is inferior to the layout views of the other programs, the innovative Tags On view and abundance of extras make this an excellent package overall for budding programmers.

MACROMEDIA DREAMWEAVER 4.0

EDITORS' RATING **7.8**

EASE OF USE	7	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	7
FEATURES	9	VALUE	7
PERFORMANCE	9		

PROS: Doesn't reformat HTML code; integrated full-featured HTML editor; improved table editor; Flash-based buttons and text
CONS: Moderately difficult to use

Launched in December 1997, Macromedia Dreamweaver professed to serve Web developers who didn't want Web layout programs to alter their HTML code. Every other Web layout program at that time drastically altered the HTML, often beyond recognition. Since then, other layout programs have adopted the leave-it-alone strategy, including Adobe GoLive 5.0, and, to a lesser degree, NetObjects Fusion MX, but none has delivered on the promise as fully as Dreamweaver.

While the $299 Dreamweaver 4.0 is essentially a drag-and-drop layout program, it's not quite as easy to use as GoLive 5.0 or Fusion MX. Targeting professional site developers, it has an abundance of powerful features that can intimidate novices. On the other hand, it is an environment that you can grow into, and the capabilities you'll master en route are worth the effort.

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ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID FLAHERTY

< FEATURE COMPARISON >

	Imports HTML	Displays HTML	Protects HTML	Supports Dynamic HTML	Supports CSS	Supports Flash	Supports XML	Asset Management	Built-In FTP	Predesigned Themes	Clip-Art Collection
Adobe GoLive 5.0	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	—	—
HoTMetaL Pro 6.0	●	●	●	●	●	●	—	●	●	—	●
Macromedia Dreamweaver 4.0	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	—	—
Microsoft FrontPage 2002	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	—	●	●	●
NetObjects Fusion MX	●	●	Selected pages only	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	—

SITE-DESIGN TOOLS

Site ADVICE

Even if you have all the right software tools, your site will be only as good as your design skills. To improve on these skills, you can go online and find hints, tips, and advice on how to build a better Web site. A good starting point, CNET Builder.com ***(www.builder.com)*** provides how-to libraries, programming reference works, and Web-related resources. (CNET Networks is *Computer Shopper's* parent company.) If it concerns designing, selling, or maintaining a Web site, you'll probably find it there.

CNET's ZDNet Developer ***(www.zdnet.com/developer)*** offers a similarly rich set of tools, though it's geared more toward programmers than weekend Webmasters. You'll find Java applets, JavaScripts, and Perl scripts you can use for free, as well as relevant articles on such timely issues as Web privacy, cybersquatters, Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG), and Web-patent issues. If your interests go beyond drag-and-drop site creation, you'll find plenty to delve into.

If you think your site is easy to navigate, be ready to eat humble pie as you enter the hallowed halls of Useit.com ***(www.useit.com)***. Jakob Nielsen will astonish you with research, advice, and stern warnings about the pitiable state of most Web sites. Listen well, and you'll learn to simplify your site so visitors can get what they want as quickly as possible.

www.builder.com

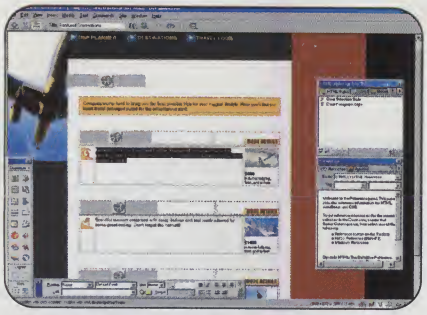


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Macromedia Dreamweaver 4.0

al users, Dreamweaver 4.0 integrates a full-featured HTML editor. (Previously, Allaire HomeSite was included in the package.) A Split View lets you see both the HTML-based code and the layout design in the same window. Tables were once hard to work with in Dreamweaver, but this version simplifies the process by letting you draw cells on the page to represent the size and shape of the table. It's also much easier now to develop Flash content within the program. The Flash-based buttons and text are scalable in size and have small file sizes. Macromedia has also beefed up Dreamweaver's site asset and site reporting capabilities.

Dreamweaver 4.0 is the most powerful of the five programs reviewed here. It may be more powerful than some casual Web designers need or want, however.

MICROSOFT FRONTPAGE 2002

EDITORS' RATING **7.6**

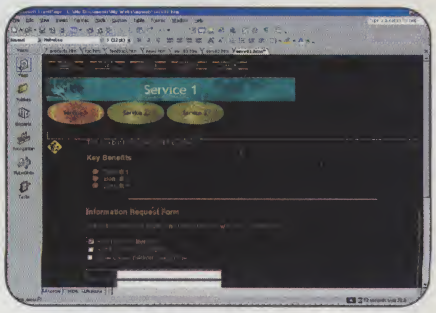
EASE OF USE	7	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	7
FEATURES	8	VALUE	8
PERFORMANCE	8		

PROS: Automated graphics thumbnails; 67 themes; easy Dynamic HTML effects; one-step Web-content insertions
CONS: Relatively complex menu structure

Even though FrontPage is included in the Microsoft Office Professional suite, many Office owners never install it. That's a shame, because Microsoft has worked hard to make the program more powerful and easier to use. The $169 ($89.95 to uprgrade) FrontPage 2002 improves upon the previous version's predesigned themes. (They're similar to the styles found in Fusion MX.) You can quickly change your site's appearance by switching from one theme to another. The 67 themes are coordinated collections of bullets, buttons, backgrounds, page banners, horizontal lines, and font styles. They're a boon to users, such as small-business owners, trying to launch a site quickly.

Most of the program's functions are accessible from pull-down menus, not unlike those in other Office applications. It's a relatively powerful environment with many novice-friendly features, including a spell-checker, automatic thumbnails for graphics, easy DHTML effects, and one-step insertions of Web content, such as MSNBC headlines and Expedia maps. Other time-savers include a preprogrammed discussion board with newsgroup-style threaded discussions, dynamic online surveys, and a Table AutoFormat function that helps you create tables with attractive borders, shading, and colors. The Table AutoFormat function is similar to the AutoFormat function in Excel.

FrontPage has added lots of new ease-of-use features, but it's still not as simple as some of its competitors. Its complex menu structure is less intuitive than the nested icon structure used by Adobe GoLive and Macromedia Dreamweaver. Although the bonus CD of 25,000 pieces of clip art is a welcome addition,



Microsoft FrontPage 2002

SITE-DESIGN TOOLS

Do Your DESIGNING ON THE WEB

If you're looking for the easiest site-design program, you may not be looking for a program at all. Trellix (***www.trellix.com***), founded by VisiCalc author Dan Bricklin, has converted its TrellixWeb software into TrellixWeb Express, a browser-based site-building tool. Like the software, this Web-based version offers sample templates, prepackaged designs, an integrated photo-management tool, and an easy-to-use page editor. It's being sold to commercial sites that want to offer site building to their less technical customers. Trellix has already signed up Tripod, BizLand, CommunityMe, McGraw-Hill Learning Network, and SamsDirect Internet.

You'll find another Web-based authoring system available at Balthaser:Fx (***www.balthaser.com***). Both the Balthaser:Fx site and your resulting site are constructed entirely in Flash. You drag and drop elements from a library rich in multimedia elements. The site isn't cheap—you'll have to pay $199 for each site you create and an additional $99 for each year of updates—but that's much cheaper than hiring a professional designer. Updates are free for a year for sites created by the end of 2001. It's a quick and easy way to design a dynamic, contemporary-looking Web site.



ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID FLAHERTY

FrontPage could use a larger, more varied collection of themes and sample sites. It appears more like Microsoft Word than Microsoft Publisher. This may be an attempt to try to leverage the popularity of Word, but Word is a less-than-ideal model for a Web layout program.

NETOBJECTS FUSION MX

EDITORS' RATING **8.0**

EASE OF USE	8	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	7
FEATURES	8	VALUE	9
PERFORMANCE	8		

PROS: Automated tools for creating complex hierarchical page structures; 200 styles; significantly less expensive than previous version; limited HTML code protection

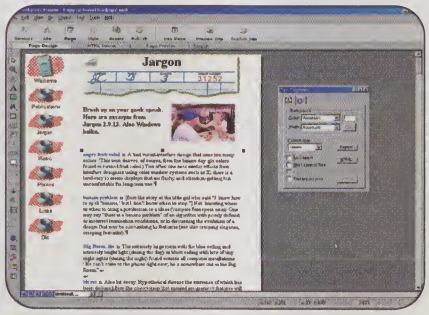
CONS: Sometimes hard to work around the automated features

ZDNet BEST BUY

If you need to create a complex site that's simple to navigate, you're a prime candidate for NetObjects Fusion MX. Of the five programs, it's best suited for setting up and maintaining complex hierarchical page structures. You can quickly create a header and navigation bar that appears on every page. When you expand your site, these repeating elements automatically appear on each new page, and all page references are automatically updated. This automated structure makes the program ideal for sites requiring regular updates.

In addition, Fusion MX has a hearty collection of 200 styles. Most are conservative and low-key, though some are innovative and eye-catching. As a whole, they're much more lively and sophisticated design-wise than FrontPage's themes. If you're hoping to create an unusual site with a minimum of fuss, Fusion MX would be the better choice.

Many features are linked to the program's views. The Site View displays the hierarchical structure of your site and lets you quickly add pages and create parent-child relationships between them. The Page View offers dockable tool palettes and pixel-perfect placement of text and objects. The Style View lets you preview, edit, and select the available styles. An Assets View manages your site's resources. And the Publish View controls the file structure and uploading of your site. Collectively, these views walk you through the steps for creating, publishing, and maintaining a commercial-quality site.



NetObjects Fusion MX

The previous version, NetObjects Fusion 5.0, sold for $299.95. With this latest iteration, NetObjects has lowered the price to $99.95. Given its polished interface, attractive styles, and strong site-management capabilities, NetObjects Fusion MX is an unusually fine bargain. ▼

< PRODUCT SUMMARY >

EDITORS' RATING (Rated 1 to 10)	7.4	7.4	7.8	7.6	8.0 BEST BUY
PRODUCT	Adobe GoLive 5.0	HoTMetaL Pro 6.0	Macromedia Dreamweaver 4.0	Microsoft FrontPage 2002	NetObjects Fusion MX
COMPANY	**Adobe Systems** San Jose, CA 800-833-6687, 408-536-6000 ***www.adobe.com***	**SoftQuad Software** Toronto, ON, Canada 800-387-2777, 416-544-9000 ***www.softquad.com***	**Macromedia** San Francisco, CA 800-457-1774, 415-252-2000 ***www.macromedia.com***	**Microsoft** Redmond, WA 800-426-9400, 425-882-8080 ***www.microsoft.com***	**NetObjects** Redwood City, CA 888-892-0702, 650-482-3200 ***www.netobjects.com***
REQUIRES	Windows: 200MHz Pentium or faster; 48MB RAM (64MB for Win NT 4.0); 50MB hard drive space; Windows 98 or 2000, or NT 4.0 with Service Pack 3. Mac: PowerPC processor; 48MB RAM; 70MB hard drive space; Mac OS 8.6 or 9.0	Pentium-class processor; 32MB RAM; 50MB hard drive space; Windows 95, 98, or NT 4.0	64MB RAM; 150MB hard drive space. Windows: Pentium processor (Pentium II recommended); Windows 95, 98, Me, or 2000, or NT with Service Pack 5. Mac: Power Macintosh (G3 or faster recommended); Mac OS 8.6 or 9.x	133MHz Pentium-class processor or faster; 32MB RAM for Windows 98, 40MB for Windows Me or NT, 72MB for Windows 2000 Professional; 165MB hard drive space; Windows 98, Me, or 2000, or NT 4.0 with Service Pack 6 or later	200MHz or faster Pentium-class processor; 64MB RAM; 100MB hard drive space for full installation; Windows 95, 98, Me, 2000, or NT 4.0
MFR. EST. PRICE	$299 (list) 34460	$69.95 34461	$299 34462	$169 (estimated) 34463	$99.95 (list) 34464

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AMD ATHLON 1.0GHZ	S 939	CA705
AMD ATHLON 900	S 909	CA706
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AMD ATHLON 1.13GHZ	S 619	CE704
AMD ATHLON 1.0GHZ	**S 609**	CE705
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AMD DURON 800	S 519	CE708

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AMD ATHLON 1.13GHZ	S 659	CJ704
AMD ATHLON 1.0GHZ	S 645	CJ705
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AMD DURON 800	S 555	CJ708

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- Mitsumi 1.44 MB Floppy Drive
- PS2 Win98 Keyboard & Internet Mouse
- ATX Medium Tower Case w/ 300 Watt UL
- Microsoftsoft Windows Millennium or 98 2nd Edition
- Corel Wordperfect Office 2000 or Microsoft Work 2001
- One Year On Site Service +S29

AMD ATHLON 1.4GHZ	S 1149	CH701
AMD ATHLON 1.33GHZ	S 1065	CH702
AMD ATHLON 1.2GHZ	S 1045	CH703
AMD ATHLON 1.13GHZ	S 1035	CH704
AMD ATHLON 1.0GHZ	S 1025	CH705
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AMD ATHLON 1.33GHZ	S 889	T7012
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AMD ATHLON 1.13GHZ	**S 865**	T7014
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BY ELAINE X. GRANT

Online On the Road

Being away from home no longer means being out of touch. Now you can get online on land, at sea, or in the air.

"It's almost like knowing where all the good bathrooms are," jokes Miami-based airline consultant Stuart Klaskin.

Klaskin is referring to anytime/anywhere Internet access. Because he's away from home about 100 days a year, getting online on the road is crucial. "It has surpassed the need to be connected by telephone," says Klaskin, a principal in the aviation consulting firm Klaskin, Kushner & Company.

But logging on while traveling takes some planning. Fortunately, it's easier than ever, as airlines, airports, hotels, cruise lines, trains, and even rental-car companies rush to provide Web access.

All you need to do is bring the right equipment. Dial-up connections, while slow, are still the most widely available. You'll need an ISP account, a laptop or handheld with a modem, and a standard RJ-11 phone jack, which you'll find in many airports, airplanes, and, of course, hotel rooms. For broadband access via a DSL or T1 line, you'll need an Ethernet card and RJ-45 adapter. Some airports and hotels now offer Web and e-mail access via a wireless LAN at up to 11mbps, or via WAN at 128kbps. Just make sure your laptop is equipped with a Wi-Fi/802.11b-compliant wireless modem.

Even if you've left empty-handed, you can still get online at many locations. More and more airports, hotels, and cruise ships have business centers stocked with Internet-ready PCs.

INTERNET ON THE FLY

If you've ever tried sending or receiving e-mail using the RJ-11 jacks in a plane's seat-back phone, you know it requires bountiful reserves of patience—and money. In addition to having to reconfigure your communications software, you've probably met with long waits to connect and steep per-minute charges. Transmission speeds are slower than molasses in January, and often the systems just plain don't work.

Some airlines are cooking up a better solution. Eight carriers are testing a system developed by Tenzing Communications that provides high-speed access to the Web and e-mail. All you have to do is download a software program before the flight, then plug your laptop's modem into the seat-back phone's RJ-11 jack. The system has an onboard server uploaded each morning with approximately 500,000 pages of Web data. Select data, such as news and stock

ILLUSTRATION BY BILL RIESER


USER NAME
PASSWORD

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quotes, are updated at least hourly during the flight. You can access the server at 56kbps, but the server communicates with the ground at a considerably pokier 9.6kbps. You can also send and receive e-mail and attachments, but you have to set up a POP3 e-mail account with Tenzing.

Air Canada has installed the Tenzing system on five planes, and as of March had 2,000 registered users, with 50 to 60 signing up every day. Depending on the results of its free test program, which was scheduled to end in May, Air Canada will install the system on additional aircraft. At press time, the airline had not determined pricing, but John Wade, executive vice president of strategic alliances at Tenzing, expects the service to cost between $10 and $15 per flight.



Tenzing lets you send and receive e-mail in flight.

And that's likely to appeal to business travelers like Michel Proulx, a television-equipment designer who tried the new service on an Air Canada flight from Los Angeles to Montreal. "It was literally painless," he says. Air Canada had slipped a software disk into the seat pocket, so Proulx simply installed the program on his notebook and was up and running. During the flight, he estimates he received 24 e-mail messages and sent 12. "I take the train all the time, and I wish they had the same thing," he says.

Another international carrier, Cathay Pacific Airways, plans to offer Web and e-mail access on select routes by September and will eventually add the feature to its entire fleet. All first-class and business-class seats and some economy seats will have access to the service. Cathay uses the Tenzing system with a twist: a high-speed LAN that will speed data between your laptop and the onboard server at 4.5mbps.

Singapore Airlines also plans to test the Tenzing system, and Scandinavian Airlines will begin trials with an onboard Wi-Fi server. Virgin Atlantic will launch onboard connectivity on one 747 in December and on its new Airbus planes, which will go into service in 2002. In addition to laptop access, Virgin will install a virtual keyboard on a touch screen in each seat.

Tenzing is already working on the next version of its system. By late summer, you should be able to access firewall-protected e-mail, and not long after that, your own e-mail and ISP. By early 2002, you can kick back with live broadband Web access via satellite for about $20 an hour. But you'll still have access to the more affordable proxy-server version.

Tenzing isn't the only company working on in-flight Internet solutions. Aircraft manufacturer Boeing and Inflightonline are each working on systems that provide real-time broadband access without the need for software. Boeing's product will be ready for installation by year's end; Inflightonline's system is already installed on some corporate jets.

It will be some time before in-flight Web access becomes standard. In the meantime, most airline clubs offer data ports for dial-up access and a few computer terminals, and some are beginning to provide high-speed connections. Airport lounges operated by Alaska Airlines, Northwest, and U.S. Airways offer eKiosks, equipped with Web-enabled PCs and broadband and wireless laptop connections.

Northwest Airlines' newer airport clubs outfit each seat with data and power ports, as well as a few PCs with Web access. In addition to dial-up data ports, American Airlines now serves up high-speed, wireless Internet access in all of its Admirals Clubs, using MobileStar. To connect to the service, you need a regular Wi-Fi card and MobileStar software. MobileStar charges $249 for the card and software, and service charges range from $2.50 per use to $59.95 per month.

If you're not a member of an airline club, you have other options. Many airports have Internet kiosks where you can pay by the minute for high-speed access. MobileStar offers wireless network access at a handful of airports. And you'll find Verizon's NetAccess Internet Kiosks in four airports. Each NetAccess kiosk is equipped with a computer, keyboard, mouse, and touch screen. Getting online costs 25 cents a minute, and only paper currency is accepted. Connections can be dial-up, ISDN, frame relay, or DSL.

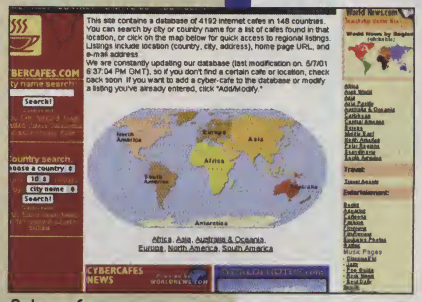
Wayport offers wireless access in six airports, charging a $49.95 startup fee and a $4.95 per-day fee to use the service. Global Digital Media has installed kiosks in the Boston and Philadelphia airports, and will soon set up shop in New York City airports. Similarly, Get2Net's NetStation kiosks offer access to

Eat, Drink, and Be Wired

Internet access has infiltrated every walk of life. Even local eateries give patrons the ability to get online. Cyber cafés, where you can get a sandwich, commandeer a booth, and munch away while checking your e-mail, are popping up all over the world and are a good way to keep connected when you're away from home.

Several Web directories provide comprehensive, searchable lists of cyber cafés. The Cybercafe Search Engine ***(www.cybercaptive.com)*** lists more than 6,000 cyber cafés, Net kiosks, and other public access points in 169 countries, and is frequently updated. Cybercafes.com ***(www.cybercafes.com)*** lists about 4,200 cafés in 148 countries. Both sites list addresses, phone numbers, e-mail, and Web sites, when available. The HM U.S.A. Travel Guide ***(usa.dedas.com/cybcaf.html)*** lists cyber cafés in the United States by state. Unfortunately, addresses aren't provided on the initial search page, but the site does give a description of some cafés and lists available services. It also provides a link to the cafés' Web sites. Global Computing ***(www.globalcomputing.com/cafes.html)*** also lists U.S. cyber cafés by state, with links.

Starbucks is taking a different approach to Web access. The coffee company plans to offer wireless Web access through the MobileStar system in more than 3,000 stores in North America within two years. Instead of the cyber café model, which includes actual workstations with Web access, Starbucks will let you connect to the Web using your laptop and wireless modem. Starbucks hasn't yet set a subscription fee for the service. Other restaurants also offer the MobileStar service, including the upscale One Market in San Francisco.

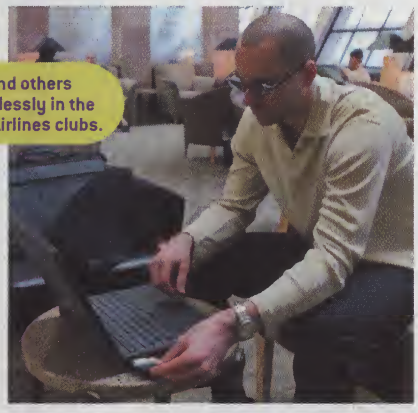


Cybercafes.com

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the Web and Internet e-mail from 14 airports. It's advertiser-sponsored, so a 15-minute session is free. After 15 minutes, you can log on again to continue using the service.

If you're in the San Jose airport, you can snack while you surf at the Expedia.com Café. The café seats 50, and each table is equipped with an electrical outlet and phone jack. Local and toll-free calls are free, and there's no per-minute charge for access. Expedia says it plans to open cafés in additional locations nationwide, but would not specify a time frame.



Admirals and others log on wirelessly in the American Airlines clubs.

If you're looking for a full-service business center, LaptopLane/Aerzone has just the thing. At its 25 locations in 17 U.S. airports, you'll find workspace pods complete with PCs, T1 lines, Web-conferencing capabilities, and phone lines. The service costs $5 for the first 5 minutes and 65 cents per minute thereafter.

HIGH-SPEED HOTELS

Once you're on terra firma, your chances of connecting from your hotel room are quite good. Hotels offer a wide range of access options, the least of which is a data port for dial-up access and maybe a dual-line phone so the modem doesn't tie up the phone line. Increasingly, hotels are going further, offering high-speed access via DSL or T1 line, wireless network, or even WebTV. Charges are usually in the $9.95-per-day range.

Billing itself as the first Internet hotel in New York City, the two-year-old Holiday Inn Wall Street has taken online access to the extreme. Each room is furnished with WebTV and a desktop PC with DVD drive, Microsoft Office, a T1 line, and a dedicated printer. Executive-floor guests also get a laptop and wireless connectivity. In preopening focus groups, "people were literally screaming for this type of product," says general manager Frank Nicholas. He estimates 15 to 20 percent of the hotel's guests are online at any given time.

Four Seasons offers in-room T1 access in all its U.S. properties and will add the amenity to most international properties by year's end. Daily access fees range from $9.95 to $30. Most of Four Seasons' North American properties also have a wireless network, so if you subscribe to the service you can get online from anywhere in the building.

Other hotels are also leaving the online light on. By the end of the year, Fairmont Hotels & Resorts plans to offer high-speed Ethernet connections in every meeting room and some guest rooms, and will eventually add the feature to every guest room. Some rooms are already equipped with PCs or laptops. Demand for the systems has varied, says Tim Aubrey, Fairmont's vice president of technology, with usage ranging from 3 to 30 percent.

More than 500 Marriott, Renaissance, and Courtyard hotels worldwide offer in-room high-speed access, and all new Westin and Sheraton properties already have the feature. Wyndham offers T1 access in every room and wireless access in every lobby and meeting room.

Some properties have chosen the WebTV route, offering high-speed Web access via the hotel's cable system and an infrared keyboard. Every room in W Hotels' holdings, for instance, has WebTV as well as high-speed Web access and a personal e-mail address. WebTV is also available at 11 Westin properties in Asia, Canada, and Europe.

Guest and meeting rooms aren't the only places to get wired. Some hotels even offer access in their lobbies and fitness centers. If you need to be wired while you work out, some hotels, including the Grand Hyatt San Francisco and the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, equip some of their exercise machines with Web access.

Wireless access is becoming increasingly popular. MobileStar has installed wireless Internet kiosks in public areas at dozens of major hotels, and Wayport has outfitted 520 properties with wireless networks. Likewise, Global Digital Media plans to install its wireless product in 10 hotels by July.

WIRED ON WHEELS

If you frequently find yourself on four wheels, and you've already mastered the multitasking challenges of shouting at your cell phone at 50mph (using a hands-free device, we hope), fasten your seat belt and get ready for the next big thing in driver distractions.

General Motors recently introduced Virtual Advisor, which offers voice-activated traffic information, news, e-mail messages, and stock quotes over the Web. The downsides: You can't reply to or send e-mail, and the system will read only messages sent to an OnStar account. OnStar is a cellular- and satellite-based communications service that offers mapping and emergency-response services.

Virtual Advisor uses OnStar's Personal Calling system, which lets you make hands-free, voice-activated calls from your car. Instead of a screen, it uses your car's audio system to provide information. To use the service, you purchase blocks of minutes for 19 cents to $1 per minute, depending on the number of minutes you buy and how quickly you use them. Because you can't transmit

Check It Out Before Check-In

Looking for a hotel that provides high-speed Web access? All the electronic comforts of a well-connected home or office can be surprisingly hard to find. Travel portals don't let you sort hotels based on this amenity, and centralized directories don't yet exist.

But don't despair: Individual providers can direct you to hotels. CAIS Internet, a supplier of broadband solutions to hotels, maintains a searchable online directory, available at ***www.cais.com/prod/prod_hotel_search.htm.*** Another provider, LodgeNet, also offers a directory of hotels that have installed its fast Net access, at ***www.vicinity.com/lodgenet/startprx.hm.*** Likewise, Wayport maintains a location directory online, available at ***www.wayport.com,*** as does MobileStar at ***www.mobilestar.com/fhdslocations.html.***



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data, this won't be the interactive Web experience you're accustomed to.

Virtual Advisor is available in all OnStar-equipped GM vehicles. Although some Lexus and Honda models offer OnStar, no models yet provide Virtual Advisor. Most major car-rental companies also have OnStar but not Virtual Advisor.

Mercedes-Benz, DaimlerChrysler, Ford, and Volvo are developing similar systems. And Microsoft has also come up with a set of XML-based tools for automakers, called Car.Net, which will let you download information from the Internet, listen to e-mail or news, communicate with other drivers, make purchases, and receive satellite broadcasts. MobileAria, a company backed by Palm and car-parts manufacturer Delphi Automotive Systems, plans to release a beta of its automobile-based, voice-activated Internet service later this year.

If you prefer to travel by rail, many Amtrak trains offer Railfone booths, small workspaces with phone jacks that accept a modem connection and all major credit cards. Rates range from $1.99 to $3.99 per minute.

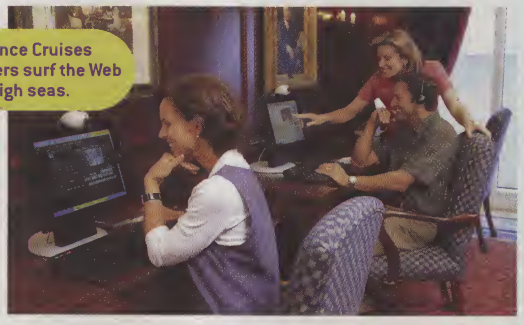
SURFING ON THE HIGH SEAS

No planes, trains, or automobiles in your immediate travel plans? Even when you're out to sea you don't have to be out of touch. Many ships now offer Web access in Internet centers open 24 hours a day, and some even have in-room data ports for cruisers who couldn't leave without their laptops.

Onboard Internet centers are equipped with Web-enabled terminals, and most offer printers and a dedicated staff member for technical support. You'll pay a high price to get online on the high seas, however. Cruise lines charge 50 cents to $1 per minute, and they tack on extra fees for premiums such as playing games, sending prepackaged electronic postcards of the ship, or e-mailing photos or videos. But cruise passengers, perhaps bored by the prospect of yet another game of shuffleboard or "Name That Tune" during long days at sea, may be willing to pay the price to make virtual contact with business associates or loved ones.

On Renaissance Cruises, getting online in the cafés is one of the most popular activities on the vessels. The ships are equipped with six-terminal Internet cafés, where you can access the Web through AOL for $1 a minute.

Norwegian Cruise Line opened a nine-terminal Internet café two years ago on its vessel *Norwegian Sky*. The amenity was so popular that Norwegian now has Internet cafés on all its ships, and the newest will have 42 terminals. The cruise line also offers in-room dial-up connections and will include that feature on all new ships.



Renaissance Cruises passengers surf the Web and the high seas.

Other cruise lines have also gotten onboard with online access, offering 24-hour, high-speed access via satellite in their Internet centers. Royal Caribbean equips its Internet centers with 10 to 18 terminals on all ships, and its three newest ships feature dial-up access in every stateroom.

Holland America Line offers Internet centers on seven ships and will add centers to its remaining three by the end of the year. All future ships will also have business centers, computer-training facilities, and data ports in every stateroom. Carnival Cruise Lines has Internet cafés on all ships.

Princess Cruises already has business centers on six ships and will add them to its entire fleet by year's end. The centers have up to five terminals complete with Web access and a variety of business applications.

CONNECTED TRAVEL TOMORROW

Staying connected on the road is far from seamless, but it will get easier. We'll see more new technologies such as Bluetooth, which connects multiple electronic devices into a personal wireless network, so your cell phone and laptop can communicate with each other. Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, owner of the Sheraton, Westin, St. Regis, and W Hotels chains, is testing a wireless network based on Bluetooth, and the Stonebriar Country Club near Dallas already offers the service to its members.

Wireless WAN-access products will likely become as popular as cell phones, though the technology still has a way to go. Metricom's Ricochet is already available in 13 major cities, and plans are in place for 32 more. Available through providers such as WorldCom, Juno, and GoAmerica for about $80 a month, Ricochet may someday get you online wherever you are. For now, though, coverage can be spotty and unreliable.

Airlines will eventually offer real-time Web and e-mail access, and cruise lines may begin offering satellite connections in every stateroom. Even if you prefer campsites to hotels, you won't have to sacrifice connectivity. Kampgrounds of America plans to offer Web access at all 500 of its campgrounds within the next few years. Even recreational-vehicle manufacturers are considering adding Web access to some models.

"Not only is it going to be standard, I think it's going to be free," says Lucy Hirleman, tech-savvy owner of Berkshire Travel in Newfoundland, N.J. "It's going to end up being one of those perks that doesn't cost you anything. After all, everybody needs to be connected."

In light of what "free" did to the dot-coms, however, this may be too much to expect. But it's a pretty safe bet that today's information-hungry travelers will be willing to drop a little cash for on-the-go connections. ▼

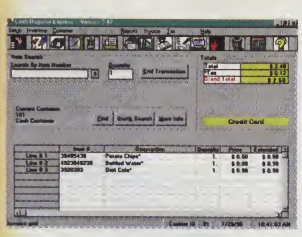
Paying the Toll: What It Costs to Stay Connected

	In the Air	At the Airport	In the Hotel	On the Highway	At Sea
How It Works	In-flight access via on-board servers	Dial-up data ports, Ethernet links, wireless networks	Ethernet link to T1 access	Cellular- and satellite-based communications service	Satellite access in onboard Internet centers
Where to Find It	Major national and international airlines	Airport clubs, Internet kiosks, business centers	Major hotel chains	General Motors vehicles	Major cruise lines
What You'll Pay	$10 to $15 per flight	It varies: Free, $1 per minute, or $2.50 per use, plus setup fees	$9.95 per day	19 cents to $1 per minute	50 cents to $1 per minute
Why Buy?	Fast access will help kill downtime up in the air.	When stranded between flights, spend on browsing, not beer.	Get online with all the comforts of home, plus room service.	Stay productive while stuck in traffic.	You can surf and sail, for a price.

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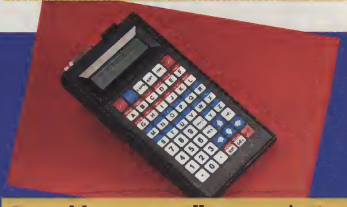
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SHOPPING FOR PC PARTS

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER {for savings}

If you want to build your own PC, you can save hundreds of dollars by shopping around for components.

BY SHELDON LEEMON

A computer may be more than the sum of its parts, but that doesn't mean the sum doesn't add up in dollars. If you've ever replaced a graphics card or added a CD-ROM drive, you know that PC components are easy to swap out. What you may not know is that learning where to shop and how to effectively use coupons and rebates can save you a stack of cash.

If you're feeling adventurous, you may want to take the component-buying process a step further, buying everything you need to build a new computer. You'll save money, but that's not the only benefit to building your own PC: You also get to pick exactly the parts you want.

Fashioning a computer out of individual components isn't as difficult as you might think and offers several advantages over buying a prebuilt model—even one you've configured to your own specifications. You get to choose the exact combination of features that you want: the speed of the processor, the size of the hard drive, the amount of memory, and so on. And if you shop carefully, your homemade system may even cost less than a comparable mass-market PC.

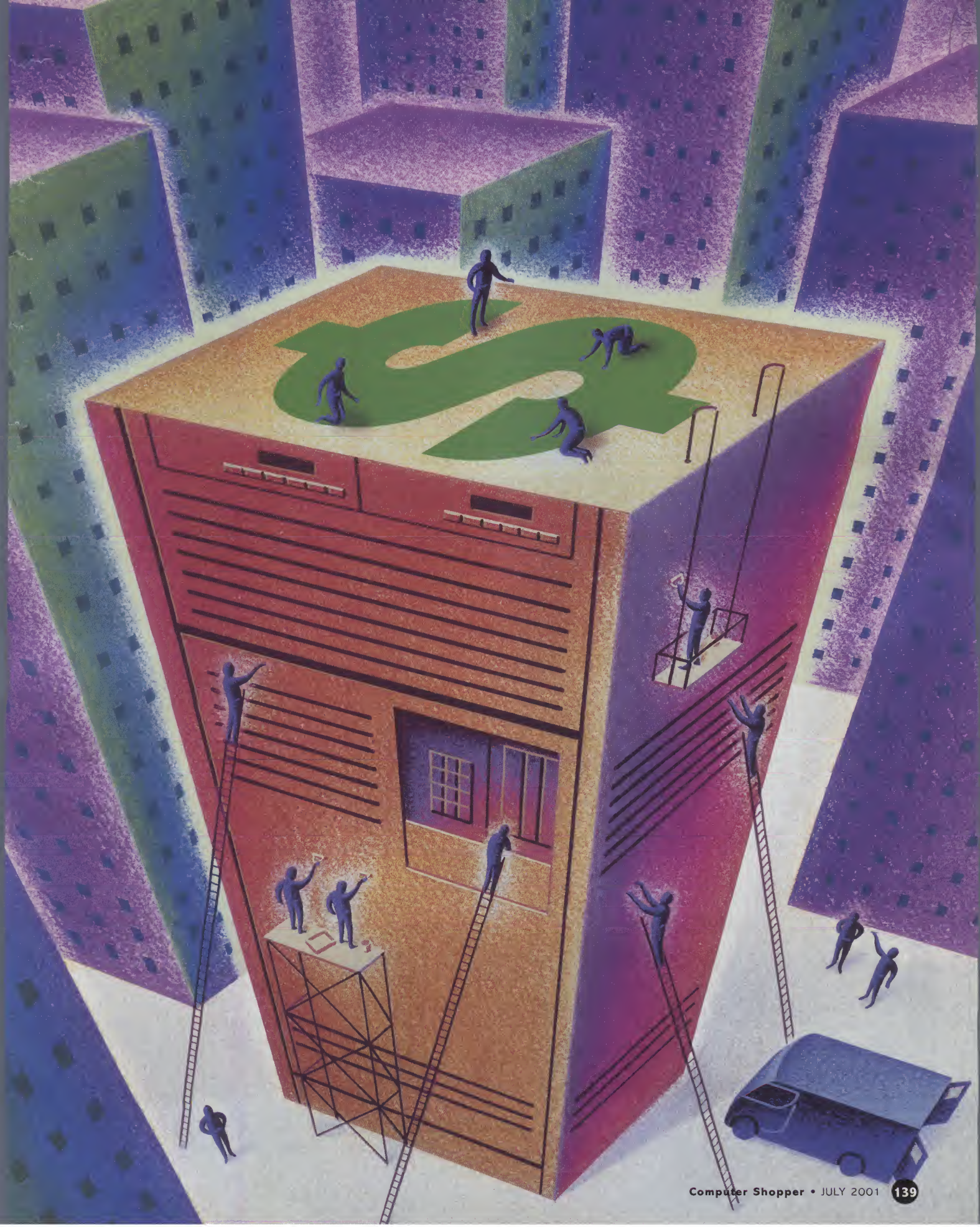
Today's computers are assembled from highly standardized parts. The core components are the motherboard, processor, memory, and the case in which the motherboard is mounted. You'll also need a graphics board and a sound card, unless you buy a motherboard that integrates these capabilities. In addition, you'll require the usual assortment of drives—hard drive, floppy drive, and CD-ROM—or if you want to spend a little more money, an unusual assortment: hard drive, Zip drive, and DVD/CD-RW combo drive. For Internet access, you'll need either a modem or a LAN card, depending on your connection. Finally, you'll need the standard input and output devices, including a keyboard, mouse, and monitor.

Tracking down the parts is the trick. In fact, you may already have some of the pieces. We'll tell you how to find the best deals, whether you're upgrading, or creating a new machine.

THE ART OF THE DEAL

Thousands of Web sites supply computer parts. First, you can try the electronics superstore sites, such as CompUSA *(www.compusa.com)*, Circuit City

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE GULBIS



(www.circuitcity.com), and Best Buy *(www.bestbuy.com)*. You'll also find PC components at the big national office-supply-store sites, such as Staples *(www.staples.com)*, OfficeMax *(www.officemax.com)*, and Office Depot *(www.officedepot.com)*. These vendors don't offer the lowest everyday prices on everything they carry, but you'll frequently find great promotional deals.

Scan the advertising circulars bundled in the Sunday newspapers, and you'll often see select components offered at deep discounts—possibly even for free, after a mail-in rebate. Such offers are not as rare as you might think. In the past few months, superstores have offered such deals as a 50x CD-ROM drive for $45 with a $45 mail-in rebate, 64MB PC133 memory modules for $30 with a $30 rebate, and a $30 PCI sound card with a $30 rebate. Some of these items are only available at the stores, and in limited quantities, so it pays to be among the first in line when the store opens on Sunday to get them.

You'll also want to look at the sites of large online retailers, including Amazon.com *(www.amazon.com)*, Buy.com *(www.buy.com)*, Onvia.com *(www.onvia.com)*, and Outpost.com *(www.outpost.com)*. These sites frequently have better everyday prices than traditional retailers do, as well as good customer service and return policies. You're also likely to find promotions, such as daily specials, free shipping, online coupons, and rebate offers to tempt new customers to try online shopping. Because these deals aren't advertised in print circulars, you'll need to check one of the many sites devoted to them, such as DealCatcher.com *(www.dealcatcher.com)*, eDealFinder.com *(www.edealfinder.com)*, or SlickDeals.net *(www.slickdeals.net)*. These sites are updated on a daily basis, with the latest in promotional pricing, free shipping offers, rebates, and discount coupon codes.

In addition to national retailers, thousands of smaller computer stores sell components online. They don't have the ad budgets of the giant chains, so they have to compete by quoting very low prices on comparison-shopping sites, such as computershopper.com, CNET Shopper *(www.shopper.com)* (both owned by CNET Networks, *Computer Shopper's* parent company), Price Watch *(www.pricewatch.com)*, and PriceGrabber.com *(www.pricegrabber.com)*. Don't forget to factor in shipping costs when you use these sites, however, because some vendors advertise very low product prices, then charge exorbitant shipping fees. Some price-comparison sites, such as PriceGrabber.com, include shipping costs to give you a new price. Price isn't the only factor, of course. You can check merchant ratings on sites such as Gómez.com *(www.gomez.com)*, BizRate.com *(www.bizrate.com)*, and ResellerRatings.com *(www.resellerratings.com)*. Some comparison-shopping sites (again, including PriceGrabber.com) provide merchant ratings in their price lists.

If you are willing to do a bit more digging, you can also find bargains at clearance and auction sites as well as on Usenet newsgroups. Clearance sites, such as Egghead.com's clearance center *(www.egghead.com/aa/clearance/clearance.htm)*, DealDeal.com *(www.dealdeal.com)*, and Computer Surplus Outlet *(www.computersurplusoutlet.com)*, all sell discontinued and overstock components, sometimes in an auction format. You can also buy new and used components from individuals and dealers on auction sites such as eBay, and through ads posted on Usenet in the *misc.forsale.computers* groups. (Sound cards, for example, are listed in *misc.forsale.computers.pc-specific.audio.*) The rule of thumb in such cases is to tread lightly. You'll find occasional great bargains, but you'll have to know what you're looking for to avoid buying useless junk or paying more than you would at a discount retailer. And don't forget to check the seller's ratings where available.

IF YOU BUILD IT, YOU WILL SAVE

The charts below show the actual cost of two 800MHz systems we put together recently, one based on a Pentium III processor, the other on an AMD Athlon Thunderbird CPU. The Savings column shows how much additional savings we were able to ferret out using Web-based coupon and rebate sites. Even though the exact deals we used are long gone now, computer parts tend to keep getting cheaper, so you may be able to do even better.

PENTIUM III

Component Type	Component Selected	Price	Savings	Final Cost*
CPU	Pentium III 800EB (retail boxed)	$216.06	$25.00 [c]	$191.06
Motherboard	Micro-Star 815E Pro (MS-6337)	$110.75	$25.00 [c]	$85.75
Graphics Card	Integrated on motherboard chipset	NA	NA	NA
Sound Card	Integrated on motherboard chipset	NA	NA	NA
RAM	Kingston 128MB PC133 SDRAM	$69.95	$19.67 [r, f]	$50.28
Hard Drive	Quantum 30GB Fireball Plus LM	$137.95	$59.67 [r, c,f]	$78.28
Mouse	Microsoft IntelliMouse with IntelliEye	$24.82	[f]	$24.82
Case	Antec ATX midtower with 300-watt power supply	$65.03	[f]	$65.03
Monitor	17-inch Pixie CRT	$159.71	$89.67 [r, c,f]	$70.04
Floppy Drive	Salvaged from old system	NA	NA	NA
CD-ROM Drive	Prime Peripherals 40x	$42.40	$39.67 [r]	$2.73
Keyboard	Gateway (purchased on eBay)	$26.00	NA	$26.00
Operating System	Windows 98 Second Edition (OEM)	$102.82	NA	$102.82
Total			$258.68	$696.81

AMD ATHLON

Component Type	Component Selected	Price	Savings	Final Cost*
CPU	800MHz AMD Athlon Thunderbird	$205.00	NA	$205.00
Motherboard	ECS K7VZA (packaged with CPU)	NA	NA	NA
Graphics Card	3dfx Voodoo3 (salvaged from old system)	NA	NA	NA
Sound Card	Integrated on motherboard chipset	NA	NA	NA
RAM	Kingston 256MB PC133 SDRAM	$79.95	[f]	$79.95
Hard Drive	Quantum 30GB Fireball Plus AS	$138.99	$30.00 [c,f]	$108.99
Mouse	Microsoft IntelliMouse with IntelliEye	$24.82	[f]	$24.82
Case	Enlight 7237 with 300-watt power supply	$69.35	[f]	$69.35
Monitor	17-inch Pixie CRT	$149.99	$79.67 [r, c,f]	$70.32
Floppy Drive	Purchased used	$5.00	NA	$5.00
CD-ROM Drive	Prime Peripherals 50x	$47.70	$44.66 [r]	$3.04
CD-RW Drive	Iomega ZipCD 12x/10x/32x	$137.79	$29.66 [r]	$108.13
Keyboard	Salvaged from old system	NA	NA	NA
Operating System	Windows 98 Second Edition (OEM)	$102.82	NA	$102.82
Total			$183.99	$777.42

NA = not applicable; **[c]** = coupon; **[r]** = rebate (minus postage); **[f]** = free shipping *Includes shipping and tax

START WITH THE BRAIN...

Because the CPU is literally the brain of the PC, as well as the single most expensive component, choosing a processor should be your first task. Processor technology is always changing, but the newest processors (which will, of course, be ancient history in six months) always command a large premi-

um. For example, at the time of this writing, a 1.5GHz Pentium 4 chip cost about $700, nearly four times as much as an 800MHz Pentium III processor, although, in our tests, the Pentium 4 was only about 20 percent to 30 percent faster than the Pentium III. We expect most users will find the slower chip to offer more than acceptable performance at a much better price.

The top hardware-product review sites, such as AnandTech *(www.anandtech.com)*, Tom's Hardware Guide *(www.tomshardware.com)*, and Sharky Extreme *(www.sharkyextreme.com)*, constantly update their articles, comparing the relative merits of current processors. Moreover, both Sharky Extreme and AnandTech provide frequently updated price guides to processors. As a general rule, processors in the $150-to-$250 price range seem to offer the best value.

Even after you've narrowed down your choice to a few processors, consider factors such as package types (the newer processors are socketed chips, rather than slot plug-ins) and front-side bus speed (newer processors use a faster bus). You'll also need to differentiate between OEM and retail products. Retail versions include instructions and a fan, and are usually covered by a three-year manufacturer's warranty. OEM versions cost significantly less, but come bagged, without a fan, and may have a warranty measured only in days.

Because each processor model is only available from one manufacturer, you can use the comparison-shopping sites to find the lowest price. Although CPUs never go on sale, some vendors do give you a slight price break if you buy the processor, fan, and motherboard together. Price Watch lists these motherboard/processor combinations separately.

...AND MOVE TO THE BODY

Computer motherboards are designed to work with a particular type of processor. You'll nevertheless have a wide choice of motherboards to consider. Comparative reviews at the hardware sites mentioned earlier should help you sort through the features and costs of various models. The main features include the number and types of slots (typically four to six PCI slots and a 4x AGP slot), and the number and type of memory sockets (commonly, two or three PC100/133 DIMM sockets). Optional features, such as built-in sound and video, raise the cost of the motherboard slightly but eliminate the need for separate add-in cards. Some newer motherboards also come with an Audio/Modem Riser (AMR) slot that lets you use an inexpensive modem card. Prices for comparable motherboards from name-brand manufacturers such as Abit, Asus, Gigabyte, Micro-Star, Soyo, and Tyan can vary significantly, so keep a number of alternate selections in mind to find the best bargains. As with processors, comparison-shopping sites are your best bet.

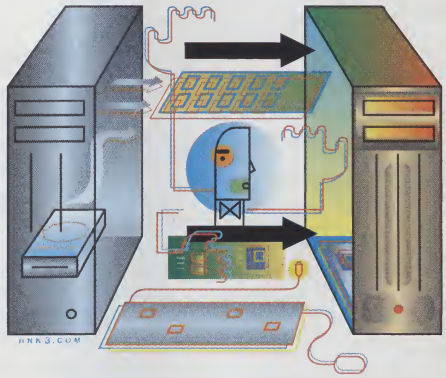
Most current motherboards use inexpensive PC133 SDRAM memory, which at press time was selling for about $80 for 256MB, so you should consider 128MB the bare minimum. You'll probably want to avoid boards that use costly, high-performance Rambus DRAM (RDRAM) memory, because the expense greatly outweighs the speed boost. You can often find sales and rebates on SDRAM, so scan those ad circulars and deal sites. Be sure you have the option of returning any memory you buy in case of incompatibility.

Most motherboards fit in a standard ATX case. The most popular are midtower cases, which provide three or four external 5.25-inch and two external 3.5-inch drive bays, along with one or two internal drive bays. Because the case may be the only component you take with you to the next system you build, you may want to buy for quality rather than looks. Some of the better-known brands include Antec, Enlight, and In Win. Look for features such as heavy metal construction, screwless disassembly, slide-in drive bays, and a hefty power supply. (A 300-watt supply is particularly recommended for AMD processors.) These cases are fairly heavy, so it may make sense

PERFORMING PC TRANSPLANTS

If you're getting ready to build a new computer, the odds are good that you probably have an old system that is either collecting dust in the attic or too ancient to upgrade. That computer probably has a mouse, keyboard, modem, memory, and a hard drive—all parts that you're going to need. How many of these can be recycled into your new machine?

Some, but not all. The latest processors fit only in new motherboards, which require the latest type of RAM, so you'll probably have to buy these key components. You'll also need a new case, unless your old computer case is a standard ATX-style enclosure. Everything else, however, can potentially be salvaged from your old system.



An old 5GB or larger hard drive with some free space may be adequate, at least for now. Moving your hard drive also makes setup a little easier because you won't have to reinstall the operating system and applications, although you'll still have to install device drivers for new components. (Remember that operating systems older than Windows 98 Second Edition may not support newer hardware, such as USB devices.)

Your floppy and CD-ROM drives are excellent candidates for salvage. If you use your CD-ROM primarily for installing new software, even an 8x drive may do. Likewise, your old keyboard, mouse, monitor, and speakers should all work on your new system.

With legacy plug-in cards, such as sound, graphics, network, and modem cards, the bus connector presents the biggest potential problems. Most new motherboards no longer include ISA slots, so you'll have to replace any cards using that format. PCI and AGP cards, however, should be fine.

Do you need to buy new software? Most application and operating-system software is licensed for a single computer, so if you're not planning to use your old PC or give it to someone else, you can transfer the software to the new machine. If you want to use the same software on both machines, however, check the software license to see if you can do so legally. If you need to buy a new operating system, buy it along with one of your hardware components, because this entitles you to get a reduced-price OEM version of Windows.

Even if you plan to eventually replace your old components, using them on a temporary basis is a good way to launch your new system without laying out all the cash at once. After you've put together your hybrid machine, you can selectively replace the old components as technology and your wallet dictate.

ILLUSTRATION BY HANK OSUNA

to buy one locally to beat high shipping charges.

PUT IT IN DRIVE

The hard drive is the last of the big-ticket components. Of the two interface types, SCSI and IDE, the latter provides the best price/performance ratio, primarily because the drives are so inexpensive and easy to install and set up.

When faced with a choice between 5,400rpm drives and the faster 7,200rpm ATA/100 models, though, it's worth paying the extra $30 or so for the higher performance. You'll often find discounts, deals, promotions, and rebates on hard drives, so if you aren't wedded to one particular unit, you should be able to get a 7,200rpm drive in the 30GB-to-40GB range for about $150.

Of course, you'll also need a floppy drive and an optical-disc drive. New floppy drives cost about $15. If you shop the specials, you can probably find a 40x-to-50x CD-ROM drive for under $40. DVD-ROM drives start at about double that amount; unless you plan to watch DVD movies on your computer, they aren't worth the difference in price. CD-RW drives are a popular option these days, because you can use them to create audio CDs, as well as back up large amounts of data. Now that 16x and 12x models are the speed leaders, you should be able to find 8x writers for around $100.

PLUG IT IN

If sound and graphics aren't included on your motherboard, you'll need to buy individual add-in boards. Generic PCI sound cards cost about $15, and if you're willing to spend up to $50, you can get a Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value card, the current value leader. Graphics cards range in price from a few dollars to several hundred. If you're interested in 3D gaming, a good compromise would be an nVidia GeForce2 MX card, for about $80 to $90. AnandTech's Weekly CPU & Video Card Price Guide is a good source for current price and performance information on new graphics cards.

If you want to connect to the Internet, you'll need either a modem for dial-up providers or a LAN card for cable-modem or DSL service. A new 56kbps modem should cost no more than $30 or $40, and if your motherboard comes with an AMR slot, less than $15. Ethernet interface cards cost only about $30 new, even less on the used and surplus market. If your current keyboard and mouse are in good shape, you probably don't need new ones. Even if you do, however, most good models cost $25 to $45.

Every SVGA monitor made in the last few years works fine with current computers. If you're still using a 15-inch monitor, however, and the picture is getting dim, you may find this an excellent time to upgrade to a new 17-inch or even 19-inch model. Monitor prices have dropped dramatically in the last few years, so it isn't unusual to find 17-inch models for less than $150, or as little as $100 with a rebate. Because monitors are expensive to ship, look for sales and rebate offers at your local electronics and office-supply stores.

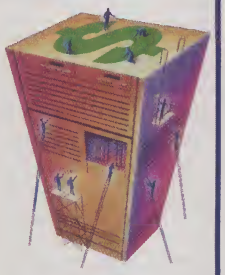
THE SUM OF THE PARTS

Although it isn't particularly difficult, building a system does require time and know-how. (For a list of Web sites that provide illustrated instructions for building your own computer, visit Excite's list at ***mckinley.netcom.com/computers_and_internet/hardware/desktop_computers/configure_your_own.***) Chances are you'll have to go through the whole process at least once before you thoroughly understand how it works. Keep in mind that you won't get the technical support and system support that comes with a store-bought computer, although the individual parts may come with manufacturers' warranties. If you do wind up with a defective component, returning it will probably result in several days of downtime.

However, these potential pitfalls shouldn't deter anyone interested in gaining a greater understanding of how a computer works. Simply putting the parts together should give you some insight into possible problems, and will better prepare you for dealing with any future hardware issues. If you run into something you can't handle, you can still take the system to a technician for help, which some users may find a more satisfying solution than using a manufacturer's telephone support. ▼

SHOULD YOU ROLL YOUR OWN?

We believe that our home-built systems stack up quite well against complete systems available from PC makers. Although we weren't able to configure systems that precisely matched those from manufacturers, we came pretty close. The price differential was significant, however: Our systems cost about one-third less than the prebuilt systems.



What do you get by springing for the extra cost of the prebuilt system? A nicer-looking case, a slightly faster processor, and a bigger hard drive—as well as some useful bundled software. But most important, you also get a complete system warranty and the possibility of free onsite service if a problem develops.

	Dell Dimension L	Our Pentium III System
CPU	866MHz Pentium III	800MHz Pentium III
RAM	128MB	128MB
Hard Drive	40GB 7,200rpm	30GB 7,200rpm
Graphics Card	Integrated on motherboard	Integrated on motherboard
CD-ROM Drive	48x	40x
Sound Card	Creative Labs Sound Blaster 64vi	Integrated on motherboard
Monitor	17-inch	17-inch
Modem	None	None
Speakers	Standard PC stereo speakers	Salvaged stereo speakers
Operating System	Windows Me	Windows 98 SE
Extras	Microsoft Works Suite 2001, Norton AntiVirus, TurboTax, one-year parts-and-labor warranty	None
Total Price	**$1,008** plus tax and shipping	**$696.81** complete

	Gateway Select 950C	Our Athlon System
CPU	950MHz Athlon	800MHz Athlon
RAM	128MB	256MB
Hard Drive	40GB 7,200rpm	30GB 7,200rpm
Graphics Card	nVidia TNT2 Vanta	3dfx Voodoo3
CD-RW Drive	Unspecified type	Iomega ZipCD 12x/10x/32x
Sound Card	Creative Labs Sound Blaster AudioPCI 128D	Integrated on motherboard
Monitor	17-inch	17-inch
Modem	Combo LAN/modem card	None
Speakers	Boston Acoustics stereo PC speakers	Salvaged stereo speakers
Operating System	Windows Me	Windows 98 SE
Extras	Microsoft Works Suite 2001, Norton AntiVirus, Quicken 2001, three-year warranty, one year of onsite service	None
Total Price	**$1,128** plus tax and shipping	**$777.42** complete

SHOP SMART • CHOOSE AMD

CBG H BEST BUY

"The Athlon Mega 2 is a powerful system that will appeal to gamers or anyone else who needs high performance."
Best Buy, Computer Buyer's Guide, June & January 2001

"The Athlon Ultra's performance is blistering. Conventional business applications are child's play, while truly demanding software--which is to say, games--run with a commendable smoothness and ease."
Best Buy, Computer Buyer's Guide, May, August 2000

PC WORLD BEST BUY June 2001 — *June 2001* **Athlon Force 2**

PC WORLD BEST BUY January 2001 — *January 2001* **Athlon Ultra 2**

PC WORLD BEST BUY October 2000 — *October 2000* **Athlon Special 2**



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- 40GB Ultra ATA100 Hard Drive
- ADI G66 19" .26 SVGA Colar Manitar, PnP 1600x1200
- 16X DVD-ROM Drive
- Matrax Millennium G450 32MB 4X AGP Card w/Dual Video Output
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster Live! Value Sound Card
- Altec Lansing ACS54 5-Piece Speaker System
- US Robotics 56K V.90 Hardware Fax Modem

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1.13GHz #A704 $1079 — 1.33GHz #A705 $1009
1.2GHz #A706 $1089 — 1.4GHz #A707 $1139

Athlon Ultra 2

- AMD Athlan Thunderbird FSB266 DDR 4X AGP M/B
- Inwin ATX Mid-Tower Case w/300 Watt (AMD Certified)
- New 128MB PC2100 DDR Memory
- 60GB Ultra ATA100 Hard Drive
- ADI G66 19" .26 SVGA Color Monitor, PnP 1600x1200
- 16X DVD-ROM Drive
- Nvidia GeForce 2 Ultra 64MB 4X AGP Videa Card, VIVO
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster Live! Value Sound Card
- Creative Labs Cambridge SoundWorks FourPoint
- Surround FPS2000 5-Piece Speaker System
- US Rabatics 56K V.90 Hardware Fax Madem

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$1419 PC WORLD BEST BUY ATHLON 1.0GHz #A713

1.13GHz #A714 $1429 — 1.33GHz #A716 $1459
1.2GHz #A715 $1439 — 1.4GHz #A717 $1489

Athlon Mega 1

- AMD Athlon Thunderbird FSB266 4X AGP M/B
- Inwin ATX Mid-Tower Case w/300 Watt (AMD Certified)
- Kingstan ar Viking 128MB PC133 Memory
- 30GB Ultra ATA100 Hard Drive
- Optiquest Q71 17" .27 SVGA Colar Monitor, PnP 1280x1024
- 16X DVD-ROM Drive
- ATI Radeon VE w/32MB DDR 4X AGP Dual Display Card
- Creative Labs SaundBlaster PCI 128 Saund Card
- Altec Lansing ACS33 Speakers w/Subwoofer
- ZOOM 56K V.90 Fax Modem
- 3Com 905 10/100 Ethernet Card

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$949 ATHLON 1.0GHz #A723

1.13GHz #A724 $959 — 1.33GHz #A725 $989
1.2GHz #A725 $969 — 1.4GHz #A727 $1019

Athlon Mega 2

- AMD Athlon Thunderbird FSB266 4X AGP M/B
- Inwin ATX Mid-Tower Case w/300 Watt (AMD Certified)
- Kingston ar Viking 128MB PC133 Memory
- 40GB Ultra ATA100 Hard Drive
- ADI G66 19".26 SVGA Color Monitor,
- PnP 1600x1200
- 16X DVD-ROM Drive
- Nvidia GeForce 2 MX 4X AGP 32MB Video Card w/TV-out
- Creative Labs SaundBlaster Live! Value Saund Card
- Altec Lansing ACS54 5-Piece Speaker System
- ZOOM 56K V.90 Fax Madem
- Add 3Com 905 10/100 Ethernet Card @$49

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- 20GB Ultra ATA100 Hard Drive
- Optiquest Q71 17" .27 SVGA Color Monitor, PnP 1280x1024
- 52X CD-ROM Drive
- Nvidia TNT2 M64 w/32MB 4X AGP Video Card
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster PCI 128 Saund Card
- Altec Lansing ACS33 Speakers w/Subwaafer
- ZOOM 56K V.90 Fax Madem

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$859 ATHLON 1.0GHz #A753

1.13GHz #A754 $869 — 1.33GHz #A756 $899
1.2GHz #A755 $879 — 1.4GHz #A757 $929

Athlon Special 2

- AMD Athlon Thunderbird FSB266 4X AGP M/B
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- Kingston or Viking 128MB PC133 Memary
- 30GB Ultra ATA100 Hard Drive
- Optiquest Q71 17" .27 SVGA Colar Manitar, PnP 1280x1024
- 16X DVD-ROM Drive
- Nvidia TNT2 M64 w/32MB 4X AGP Videa Card
- Creative Labs SaundBlaster PCI 128 Saund Card
- Altec Lansing ACS33 Speakers w/Subwoofer
- ZOOM 56K V.90 Fax Modem

★ Optional One-Year On-site Service @$29

$929 PC WORLD BEST BUY ATHLON 1.0GHz #A763

1.13GHz #A764 $939 — 1.33GHz #A766 $969
1.2GHz #A765 $949 — 1.4GHz #A767 $999

Athlon Force 2

- AMD Athlon Thunderbird FSB266 4X AGP M/B
- Inwin ATX Mid-Tawer Case w/300 Watt (AMD Certified)
- Kingstan ar Viking 128MB PC133 Memary
- 20GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Optiquest Q71 17" .27 SVGA Colar Monitor, PnP 1280x1024
- 16X DVD-ROM Drive
- Nvidia TNT2 M64 w/32MB 4X AGP Video Card
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster PCI 16 Sound Card
- Altec Lansing ACS33 Speakers w/Subwaafer
- ZOOM 56K V.90 Fax Modem; 10/100 Netwark Card

★ Optianal One-Year On-site Service @$29

$899 PC WORLD BEST BUY ATHLON 1.0GHz #A773

1.13GHz #A774 $909 — 1.33GHz #A776 $939
1.2GHz #A775 $919 — 1.4GHz #A777 $969

Duron Power

- AMD Duron VIA KT133 Thunderbird 4X AGP M/B
- Inwin Micra ATX Tower Case (AMD Certified)
- Kingstan ar Viking 128MB PC133 Memary
- 20GB Ultra ATA100 Hard Drive
- Optiquest Q71 17" .27 SVGA Colar Monitar, PnP 1280x1024
- 16X DVD-ROM Drive
- Nvidia TNT2 M64 w/32MB 4X AGP Videa Card
- Intel Integrated PCI Saund
- Altec Lansing ACS33 Speakers w/Subwaafer
- ZOOM 56K V.90 Fax Madem

★ Optianal One-Year On-site Service @$29

$799 DURON 850MHz #A794

900MHz #A795 $829 — 950MHz #A796 $849

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In Sites for Outdoor Dining

Simplify your summer meals with sites that will deliver the perfect picnic.

by Anita Gates

If your idea of the perfect summer meal involves shopping for hours and slaving over a hot stove, read no further. But if picnics, barbecues, or clambakes accompanied by gentle breezes sound more appealing, read on, and then get online. You'll find just about everything for easy alfresco meals, and—the best part—all these sites deliver right to your door. That means you'll spend more time outdoors and less in the kitchen.

Get a good start at upscale grocer **Dean & Deluca *(www.deandeluca.com)***. For picnic menus, the fine-foods section at this site offers all kinds of goodies, including cured meats and fish, salamis and sausages, and pâtés de foie gras. The impressive array of cheese includes Gruyère, Brie, English cheddar, Stilton, and six kinds of chèvre. For grilling, the butcher shop will rush-ship filet mignon or porterhouse steaks. The site also sells caviar, condiments, desserts, cook's tools and, to be sure you look your backyard best, aprons and suede pot holders.

The folks at **Delightful Deliveries *(www.delightfuldeliveries.com)*** dispatch lavish and ready-to-cook multicourse meals overnight or second day. Selections include salmon dinners (soup to cheesecake), lobster bakes, and surf-and-turf dinners (from lobster bisque to tiramisu). No unnecessary thinking required—just crank up the AC and start cooking. For lighter picnics, the site offers baskets of fruit, nuts, cheese, and sweets.

Live Maine lobsters from the most famous store in Texas? Why not! The epicure section of **Neiman Marcus *(www.neimanmarcus.com)*** also features a deluxe clambake for two. Everything you need is included, from the clams and the lobsters to the bibs and the cooking pot. Other luxury picnic items include Petrossian smoked salmon, Cajun fried turkey, and hickory-smoked whole peppered ham. For barbecue lovers, you'll find a sampler of five Red River sauces, including mesquite and jalapeno. Among the more easily transportable desserts are pecan pralines and chocolate almond toffee.

While the food *is* of utmost importance, half the fun of a picnic is filling a basket with great-looking china, cutlery, glassware, and napkins. **The Art of Picnic *(www.picnic-baskets.com)*** has a wide selection of elegant willow, rattan, and bamboo baskets and hampers. You could buy an empty one, but many come with a full dinner service for two or four. For European-style wine-and-cheese picnics, you can choose a basket with wine service only. For more casual outings, the site offers beach backpacks, stadium packs, wine totes, and water duffels.

Outdoor grilling may look simple, but without the right equipment it can be tricky. At **The Barbecue Store *(www.barbecue-store.com)***, you'll find the big basics (portable grills and camp stoves) and the little things (wood chips, grilling baskets, grill brushes, corn picks, spatulas, skewers, and tongs). The only food items available at this site are barbecue sauces and steak and barbecue rubs. No matter what unpleasant associations the name Bad Byron's Butt Rub might evoke, rest assured: It's just a barbecue seasoning.



Find all the equipment you'll need for grilling galore at The Barbecue Store.

A big selection of kettle and gas grills is available in the outdoor-cooking section of **eKitchenDepot *(www.ekitchendepot.com)***. You'll also find coolers, vacuum bottles, smoker chips, and barbecue tools. Summery cookbook titles include *Country Living Picnics and Porch Suppers, The Barbecue Bible,* and *License to Grill.* Because many summer meals are served after dark, the site also offers lanterns, votive candles, and citronella torches.

Those who subscribe to the loaf-of-bread/jug-of-wine school of picnicking should try **SecretCellars.com *(www.secretcellars.com)***. The wine finder allows you to search by just about any description. Under "fruity" you'd find, among many other selections, an American pinot noir, a Sardinian red, a Chilean cabernet sauvignon, an Umbrian sangiovese-merlot blend, and a California zinfandel. You might also try searching for the words "Wine Spectator" and you'll get wines good enough for the site to have quoted that publication's review. The site is big on California wines, so shopping by grape type is easy. The chardonnay and miscellaneous-whites categories should yield good picnic choices.

Finally, check out New York's unparalleled Madison Avenue wine shop, **Sherry-Lehmann *(www.sherry-lehmann.com)***. You can search by country (a choice of 11), region, type (aglianico to zinfandel), appellation, vintage (back to 1962), and price (under $10 to over $50). You might also pick up a wine chiller, some Riedel or house-brand wine glasses, or a corkscrew. After all, nothing's worse than getting settled in the perfect outdoor spot and opening the picnic basket to find you didn't bring one. ▼



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- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
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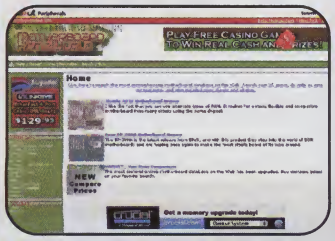
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COMPUTER SHOPPER site OF THE month — JULY

motherboards.org

Do you push your PC to the limit? **Motherboard HomeWorld** is heaven for hardware hackers and optimistic overclockers. Dedicated to documenting the soul of the PC, this site offers motherboard specs, reviews, and articles.

Start with MOBOT, a comprehensive database of motherboards and technical specifications. It includes a massive manufacturer database and downloadable editions of hard-to-find manuals. If you're not sure what type of motherboard you've got, use the Mobo ID Tools to identify it. Then use the BIOS Upgrades feature to install the latest and greatest brains in your board.



Building a new computer? Check the price-comparison guide and Hot List for help choosing the best board for your needs. Tutorials in the Guides section tell you how to choose and install a motherboard, as well as build a PC from the ground up.

The site's Reviews section serves up blissfully techie commentary for those who live and breathe chipsets, on-board controllers, and bus speeds. Speaking of speed, the Doc Overclock section is dedicated to speeding up your processor by overclocking. Learn techniques and get answers from experts here.

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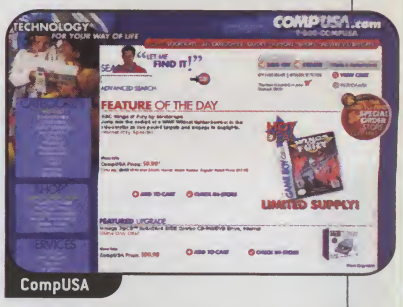
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Computer Gate

computers4sure.com

The 19 well-stocked departments at **Computers4Sure.com** include networking equipment, projectors, PDAs, scanners, and more. Bargain hunters can quickly sniff out deals on the Clearance pages.

computershopper.com

Computer Shopper's own piece of cyberspace, **computershopper.com,** provides access to product reviews, interactive guides to choosing a desktop or a notebook, and How to Buy sections for the most popular product categories. The site can also help you find an ISP, ASP, or Web host.

SITE REVIEWS

www.computersurplusoutlet.com

You're just crazy enough to build your own desktop system, aren't you? Then you'll feel right at home at **Computer Surplus Outlet,** where you'll find closeouts, overstocks, refurbished equipment, and liquidation items. You can even stumble upon the occasional assembly-required Pentium system for less than $100.



Computer Surplus Outlet

crucial.com

One of the largest providers of memory upgrades on the Web, **Crucial Technology** offers free shipping on RAM upgrades for 10,000 computer systems. The site's Memory Selector helps buyers find the right product, and the company backs its memory with a lifetime warranty.

cyberwarehouse.com

If you can't pass up a bargain-basement sale (and don't mind waiting a few days for your item to ship), **CyberWarehouse** is definitely for you. The site offers a small selection of PCs, monitors, and peripherals.

dalco.com

Dalco Electronics stocks everything from motherboards to monitors, ships them the day you order, and includes a 30-day guarantee. Bargain hunters will want to start with the specials found on the home page, which change regularly.

dartek.com

With a roster of more than 100,000 products, **Dartek** peddles an impressive selection of hardware, software, networking equipment, and office furniture. Well-designed features include printable spec sheets, customers' product ratings, a product-watch feature, and a frequent-buyers' club.

dirtcheapdrives.com

If you can store data on it, this site sells it. **Dirt Cheap Drives** offers hard drives, CD-ROM and DVD hardware, and drive arrays, with detailed technical information about each product. This decade-old company also stocks mounting kits, media, and accessories.

www.discmarket.com

CD duplication is the name of the game at **The Disc Market.** The site sells CD duplicators and CD printers, as well as a wide variety of blank CD-Rs. Plus, you'll find jewel boxes, sleeves, and other jackets for CD storage and mailing.



ecost.com

The **eCost.com** catalog spans the full range of PC hardware and software, including ready-to-use systems, peripherals, accessories, and applications. The site features personalized product recommendations and fastidious organization.

egghead.com

Egghead.com shoppers can browse the site's hardware, software, office-product, and electronics superstores. Corporate users will find volume pricing, leasing information, and software licensing in the business center.

electrified.com

Need a serious bargain? **Electrified Discounters** specializes in products that are discontinued, second-inventory, refurbished, off-lease, or otherwise past their prime. Systems range from new Pentium II laptops to under-$200 used 486s. (Wear your sunglasses, however—this site is so garish it can be difficult to navigate.)

elinux.com

At **eLinux** you'll find a whopping 42,000 hardware and software products. The site is so serious about Linux, many of its desktop and notebook systems don't come bundled with that "other" OS. Special offerings include Linux news and a community forum.

emscomputing.com

EMS Computing offers a 40,000-product catalog, an easy-to-navigate site, and low shipping charges. A monthly newsletter delivers informative tips on choosing and using computer accessories.

firstsource.com

Focused on the technology needs of businesses, **Firstsource** offers a broad range of choices in computer hardware, rack-mount systems, network tools, phone systems, wiring, and software.

globalcomputer.com

Global Computer Supplies features same-day shipping on a Godzilla-size selection of PC components, accessories, software, furniture, and media. "Showrooms" highlight products from featured manufacturers. Watch out for the 15 percent restocking fee on nondefective returns, though.



GoGoCity.com

www.gogocity.com

You'd think **GoGoCity.com** would be the one-stop shop for knee-high boots, hot pants, and all things "gogo." Not so fast, slick. This site actually features desktop and notebook computers, peripherals, software, and accessories. The strangely diverse product categories also include children's items and interior-decoration products.



Inkjets.com

inkjets.com

New inkjet cartridges are expensive, and refill kits are messy. For an inexpensive middle ground, try **Inkjets.com,** which sells remanufactured and third-party ink cartridges at fraction of the cost of name-brand ink.

insight.com

With more than 110,000 items for sale, **Insight** offers an impressive catalog of hardware and software. Customized sites are available for shoppers in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Germany.



Insight

SITE REVIEWS

jandr.com

Hardware, software, home-office products, and appliances abound at **J&R Computer World,** the New York City-based superstore famed for its selection and, ahem, "brusque" service. Avoid the attitude with this online version, which specializes in cameras, both digital and traditional film models. Product help is available via e-mail, online chat, and phone.



J&R Computer World

laptoptravel.com

Laptop Travel is road-warrior heaven! The site sells portable-computing and international-travel gear, including electrical adapters, modem converters/couplers, and security accessories. You'll find traditional and "camouflaged" laptop carrying cases, laptop RAM, and storage add-ons.

linuxcentral.com

Find your alternative at **Linux Central.** The site stocks Linux-friendly hardware, commercial software, and *operating*-system CD-ROMs. A selection of Linux-compatible T-shirts, hats, and ties will help you flash your alternative tendencies in public.

mcglen.com

McGlen Micro's specialized searches can help you find memory and other accessories compatible with your computer, printer, or copier. With the Build-To-Order Configurator, shoppers can design a custom system, which the company will configure and ship to you in two days.

mediasourceinc.com

Media Source is obsessed with storage media. This single-minded site sells CD-Rs, bulk floppies, optical discs, Zip disks, Jaz disks, DATs, and tons more. The selection of writable CDs includes brand-name and generic disks, business-card CD-Rs, and printable media.



megahaus.com

MegaHaus bills itself the "drive authority," offering a wide variety of storage solutions, including hard drives, DVD drives, RAID arrays, and CD-mastering products.

mei-microcenter.com

MEI-Micro Center offers new and refurbished desktops from Compaq, eMachines, Hewlett-Packard, and PowerSpec. You'll also find a small selection of peripherals. Rummage through the bargain bin for deals on closeouts, refurbished units, and overstocks.

memman.com

All of the desktop and laptop memory sold at **Memory Man** carries a lifetime warranty, and the site's reference guide offers RAM-configuration info for all name-brand computers. The site also sells processors, motherboards, hard drives, heat sinks, and more for intrepid system builders.

memory4less.com

Memory4Less.com offers low prices on a wide variety of RAM, including older types you may have been pulling your hair out to find. If you don't know the memory requirements of your computer or digital camera, this site will clue you in.



microx-press.com

MicroX-Press offers detailed information about most of the products it sells. The site will send you an e-mail whenever a product's price drops below a limit you set. Customers are invited to rate and review products they've tried.

www.mobile-mania.com

Quickly head to **Mobilemania.com** for digital cameras, e-mail devices, PDAs, cases, and adapters. You'll find the bountiful selection a haven for folks (like you) who are always on the go.

mobileplanet.com

MobilePlanet is home to a gaggle of high-tech tools and toys for mobile professionals. The selection includes handheld and notebook computers, PDAs, wireless-communication products, and travel-size printers and scanners.



INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

bluelight.com

Affiliated with retail powerhouse Kmart, **BlueLight.com** offers 12 hours of monthly access for free, or 100 hours for $9.95. Buying products from Kmart's online store earns you additional online time.

download.att.net/partners

AT&T WorldNet offers six e-mail addresses and 60MB of personal Web space. If you're willing to endure the ad-laden navigation bar, the cost is a mere $4.95 per month for 150 hours of access—or pay $14.95 for no ads. Unlimited access is $21.95.

www.earthlink.com

At **EarthLink,** $19.95 buys unlimited Internet access, with one e-mail box and 6MB for your Web site. For $2 more, the "family pack" adds five e-mail addresses, each with 6MB of Web space.

essentials.msn.com/access

Microsoft's **MSN** Internet access offers nine e-mail accounts and 30MB for Web pages. It will cost you $21.95 for unlimited monthly access, or $9.95 for 20 hours of online fun. For a limited time, new subscribers get a free copy of Microsoft Money.

free.aol.com

America Online, the nation's most popular ISP, offers five pricing plans, including one for $21.95 per month that gives unlimited access. Extras include members-only forums, 14MB of Web-page space, and up to seven e-mail boxes. Sign up, and you'll get up to 700 free hours your first month.

free.compuserve.com/trycsfree

Sporting a flashy new graphical interface, **CompuServe** is America Online's little brother. The service costs $9.95 per month for 20 hours, $19.95 for unlimited monthly access. Customers get seven e-mail addresses and 5MB of Web space.

juno.com

The largest free ISP, **Juno** offers free, ad-sponsored Internet access, as well as a $14.95 plan for 250 monthly hours. Either way, you'll get 12MB for Web pages.

netzero.com

NetZero provides 40 hours of monthly access—for free! If you run out of time, a $9.95 "extended access pass" buys unlimited time for the rest of the month.

prodigy.com

Twenty bucks a month buys you unlimited access and 6MB of Web space at **Prodigy.** If the kids and pets need access too, $2 more buys 10 additional e-mail boxes.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY TRACY WALKER

SITE REVIEWS

motherboards.com

With a wide selection of motherboards from nine manufacturers, do-it-yourselfers can handpick the perfect innards for their new PCs at **Motherboards.com.** Order a motherboard and CPU together, and the company will configure and test them for you.

mouseballz.com

Roll with it! When gunk and grime mess up your mouse, visit **MBZ Distributing.** This site's inventory is dedicated to—no fooling—replacement mouse balls. It carries balls for PC and Mac mice, and offers a quantity discount to customers ordering balls in bulk.



www.mwave.com

In addition to PC systems and peripherals, **Multiwave Direct** stocks notebook accessories, videoconferencing equipment, and network tools. Top sellers, "blowout specials," and rebate forms are a click away from the home page.

neutronet.com

Neutron carries thousands of computer systems and peripherals from nearly 400 manufacturers and distributors. A handy toolbox offers easy access to best buys, help for first-time buyers, and a massive manufacturer directory.



newegg.com

You won't have to shell out big bucks or scramble for hardware at **NewEgg.com**. Peck at the site's listings of new products and top sellers, then take a crack at the specials. Order carefully—the 15 percent restocking fee might make you squawk.

notebooksuperstore.com

Devoted exclusively to portable computers, **NotebookSuperStore.com** sells more than 100 different laptop models from nine manufacturers. You'll see technical details about each model, and a comparison tool helps you zero in on the best portable for you.

onvia.com

Onvia.com, a business-to-business computer outlet, offers a handful of features that distinguish it as a small-business resource, including a services marketplace, buying guides, and active community forums.

outpost.com

Outpost.com sells 170,000 products—a full range of computer hardware, plus cameras, electronics, and innovative specialty products from partner companies.

palmgear.com

Users of handhelds will appreciate the extensive selection of free and commercial programs downloadable from **PalmGear HQ.** Shoppers can buy PDA hardware and accessories, including carrying cases and hip styli. Sign up for an e-mailing list to receive information about new software, news, and user tips.

pcconnection.com

PC Connection offers nifty bargains on a colossal variety of PC and Macintosh products. Smart Selectors ease the searching process for shoppers looking for turnkey systems, cameras, printers, monitors, or memory to fit specific guidelines.

www.pcliquidator.com

The getting's good at **PC Liquidator,** a site that offers clearance, refurbished, and overstocked hardware and software. The inventory is always changing and usually inexpensive. You can find many hardware choices for under $10—some for less than $5.

pcmall.com

Shoppers at **PC Mall** receive free lifetime technical support on the site's vast selection of computers, hardware, and software. The site's business-solutions forum offers corporate leasing and volume pricing. Appleheads can find all their favorite Macintosh products at the **Mac Mall** sister site ***(www.macmall.com)***.

pczone.com

PC Zone carries an impressive selection of all things PC. You'll find links to a clearance area and other stores: **Mac Zone** and **Electronics Zone.** Printable rebate coupons can save you some cash.

provantage.com

Provantage offers PC products from more than 1,000 manufacturers, including a large selection of books and training materials. The site's Personal Tracking List feature lets customers build a list of product bookmarks, then monitor prices and availability.

shopper.cnet.com

The **CNET Shopper** search engine takes the guesswork out of finding a deal on hardware, software, and accessories. The price-drop-alerts feature will send you e-mail when the cost of a coveted gadget falls. (CNET Networks is *Computer Shopper's* parent company.)

shoppingplanet.com

Do-it-yourselfers will appreciate **Shopping Planet's** inventory of barebones systems, add-on cards, and kits.

sparco.com

Looking for that something extra? Check out **Sparco.com's** list of products that come bundled with "free stuff." The site stocks more than 130,000 products, and it offers a list of discounted items for students and faculty members of academic institutions.

ssdonline.com

At **State Street Direct,** shoppers will discover a huge selection of computers and imaging products. Digital-camera shoppers will find many items of interest, including customized comparison charts.

staples.com

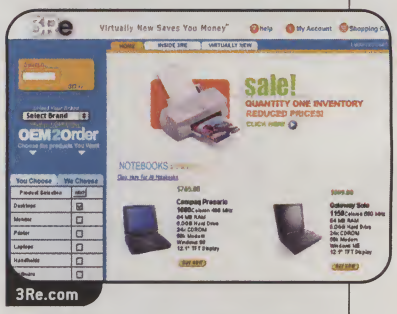
Yeah, they got that. **Staples'** Web site offers a liberal price-matching policy on computer accessories, software, and office supplies. If you order similar items often, you can set up personalized shopping lists. The company can occasionally take its time shipping items out to you, though, so beware.

2for1inkjet.com

Searching for incredible deals on printing supplies? Check out **2 For 1 Inkjet,** which offers two-for-one prices on toner and ink cartridges for every brand of inkjet and laser printer, copier, and fax machine. Beware: Shipping can be slow, and there's no order-tracking feature.

3re.com

If you can tolerate hand-me-downs to save some bucks, check out **3Re.com,** which repairs and repackages factory-returned computers and electronic equipment.



tccomputers.com

In business since 1988, **TC Computers** sells fully configured systems, motherboards, and peripherals. The company's specialty is motherboards; buyers can choose to have motherboards and processors pre-assembled and tested for no extra charge.

tcwo.com

Thompson's Computer Warehouse Outlet offers only a small selection of computer products. You may find only a dozen monitors or four CD-ROM drives, but the prices are fantastic.



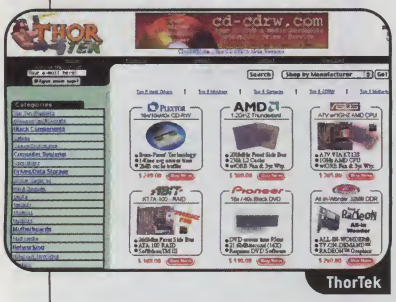
techstore.com

TechStore.com offers hardware in dozens of categories and highlights monthly top sellers. The site also sells software, ranging from productivity suites to children's titles.

thenerds.net

With no misgivings about the tech-savvy of their company or customers,

TheNerds.net offers 60,000 computer products, ranging from cables and connectors to graphics cards, at its fast and friendly site. The liberal 30-day return policy will protect you from getting stuck with the wrong product.



ThorTek

thortek.com

A wide array of computer accessories awaits **ThorTek** shoppers. The site provides quick links to the "top 5" products in several categories, including hard drives, monitors, digital cameras, and CD-RW drives.

tigerdirect.com

TigerDirect's site offers 40,000 products, including custom-built computers that are tested and shipped within 48 hours. Up for a little adventure? Order a build-it-yourself custom PC kit, and let the fun begin!

truedataonline.com

True Data Technology stocks an exceptional catalog of motherboards, hard drives, and other upgrades. The site also features communication essentials for businesses, including DSL equipment and telephony products.

usbstuff.com

USB Stuff specializes in Universal Serial Bus-equipped gadgets, including digital cameras, CD-RW drives, printers, modems, hubs, and input devices. Uh-oh: Poor site design makes navigation difficult. A sister site at ***www.firewirestuff.com*** stocks IEEE 1394-compatible hardware.

usedcomputer.com

Used Computer Mall is a marketplace for, you guessed it, used computer equipment. Shoppers can list hardware to sell, or look for items to buy using the free classified ads. The site will also help you appraise equipment.

warehouse.com

The four "warehouses" under **MicroWarehouse's** roof sell PC hardware, Mac products, datacomm components, and supplies. The site accepts corporate, educational, and government accounts, and offers business leases on many products.

PC DIRECT VENDORS

www.alienware.com

Alienware won't abduct your pets, but the company can build you a high-end gaming machine, desktop video system, or high-performance workstation. Cases are available in a rainbow of out-of-this-world colors.



buyabs.com

Exceptional customer support on custom-configured desktop and notebook systems is the goal at **ABS Computer Technologies.** All systems include a 30-day money-back guarantee. Some computers are available with Linux preinstalled.

buy-atlas.com

Atlas Micro offers desktop PCs built around Pentium, Celeron, and AMD processors. Buyers can use drop-down menus to build a custom configuration and are protected by a reasonable 30-day return policy.

compaq.com

Three arms of **Compaq Computer's** site offer computers for everyone. See the Compaq AtHome division ***(athome.compaq.com)*** for home and home-office systems, DirectPlus ***(www.directplus.compaq.com)*** for business PCs and servers, or the Compaq Factory Outlet Superstore ***(compaqfactoryoutlet.com)*** for big bargains.

csd.toshiba.com

Here's the Web home for **Toshiba's** stylish portables and desktop systems. The site's build-to-order system doesn't offer as many options as some other sites do, but it does offer plenty of extended-warranty and lease options.

cyberpowerinc.com

Each **CyberPower** PC includes a three-year warranty and 30-day money-back guarantee. The site's service area includes downloadable drivers and lifetime tech support.

dell.com

Dell Computer's electronic storefront has always led the way in terms of ease of use. The site is jam-packed with detailed information that makes it a snap to match a machine to your needs. Each system is configurable to the nth degree via drop-down menus, and you can get quick access to online support customized for your PC.

www.fosa.com

Fosa's built-to-order notebook computers include a 15-day money-back guarantee with no restocking fee and lifetime technical support. We just wish the site didn't depend so heavily on the Macromedia Flash plug-in. Sheesh!

www.fujitsu-pc.com

Fujitsu's site focuses on portable computing, including notebook PCs and pen-based tablet computers. Each computer includes several warranty options. A trade-in program offers cash back on your old computer when you upgrade to certain models.



Fujitsu

gateway.com

One of the biggest players in online computer sales, **Gateway's** enormous and informative site sells custom-built desktops and portables, delivering them on time 98 percent of the time, according to BizRate.com.

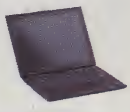
hpshopping.com

At this site, **Hewlett-Packard** sells its lines of desktop and notebook computers, handhelds, PDAs, digital cameras, and printers. Business leases are available, and the site makes repeat purchases easy for businesses and individuals.

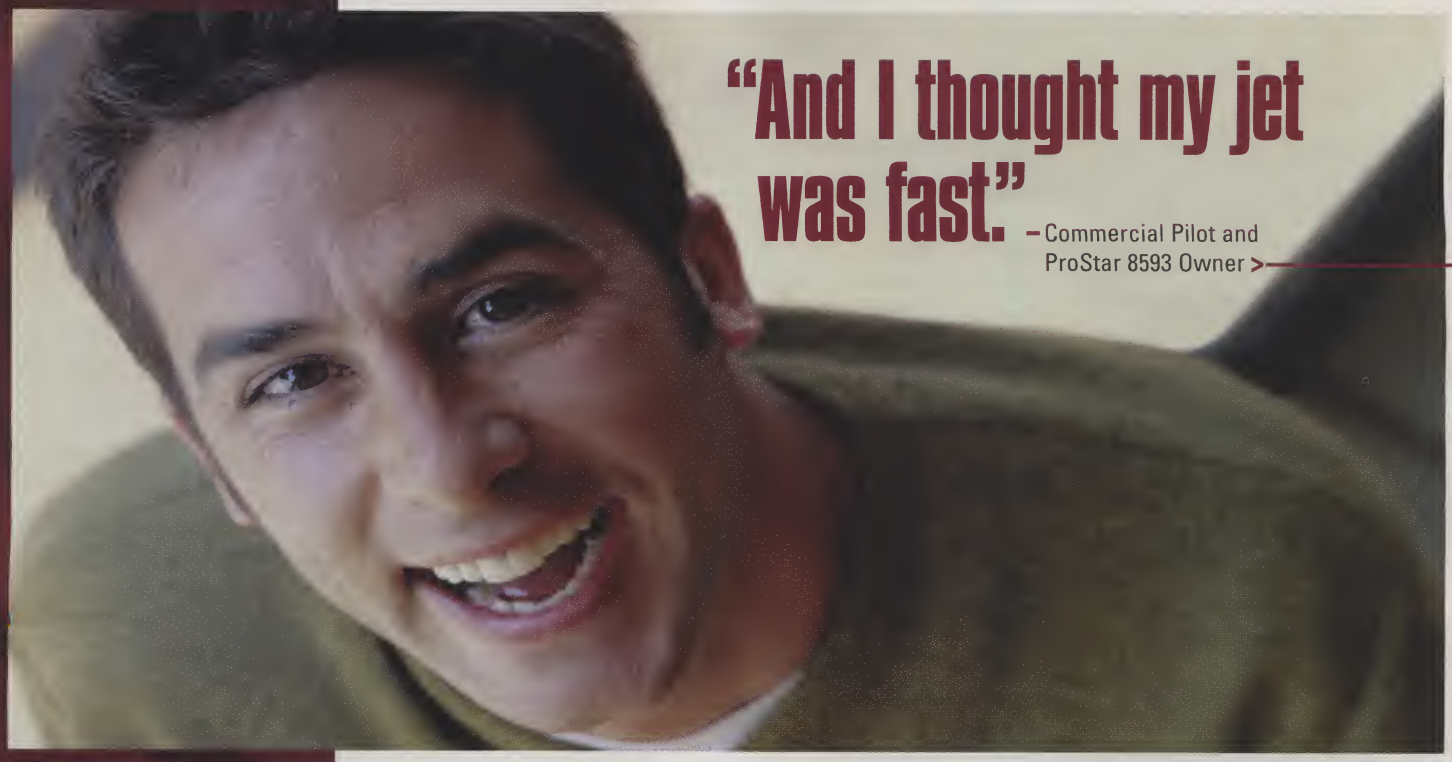


ShopIBM

ibm.com/products



ShopIBM sells business and home computers, notebooks, servers, thin clients, networking equipment, and peripherals. The build-to-order option allows buyers to customize a new desktop PC. Linux is an option on laptop models.



"And I thought my jet was fast."

– Commercial Pilot and ProStar 8593 Owner >

8593



Common Features
> 102-key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad
> 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
> 16MB Video Memory
> 10.0GB, 20.0GB, or 30.0GB Hard Drive opt.
> Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. Iomega Zip Drive, or 2nd HDD
> 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
> 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
> Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
> 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
> 10/100 Ethernet Lan Adapter
> 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
> 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
> Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
> 1 IEEE 1394 Port & 1 Video-In Port
> 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
> Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
> Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
> Microsoft® Windows® ME
> Carrying Case and AC Adapter

15" SXGA+ Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 866MHz
128MB 133MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive (CD-RW opt.)

$1895

15" SXGA+ Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 1.0GHz
256MB 133MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
30.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive (CD-RW opt.)

$2145

2253



Common Features
> 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
> Integrated Ultra AGP Graphics (4x AGP Performance) with 64MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
> 10.0GB, 20.0GB, or 30.0GB Hard Drive opt.
> 3.5" 1.44MB FDD
> 3D Surround Sound
> 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
> Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
> 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
> 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem + 10/100 Ethernet
> Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
> 3 Hot Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
> 1 IEEE 1394 Port
> 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
> Other Ports: 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
> Jacks: 1 Headphone and 1 Microphone
> Microsoft® Windows® ME
> Carrying Case and AC Adapter
> Slim Notebook: 12.1"w x 10.0"d x 1.48"h

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 866MHz
128MB 133MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X[1] Max. DVD opt.)

$1475

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 1.0GHz
256MB 133MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
20.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive (CD-RW opt.)

$1695

2253



Common Features
> 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
> Integrated Ultra AGP Graphics (4x AGP Performance) with 64MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
> 10.0GB, 20.0GB, or 30.0GB Hard Drive opt.
> 3.5" 1.44MB FDD
> 3D Surround Sound
> 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
> Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
> 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
> 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem + 10/100 Ethernet
> Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
> 3 Hot Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
> 1 IEEE 1394 Port
> 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
> Other Ports: 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
> Jacks: 1 Headphone and 1 Microphone
> Microsoft® Windows® ME
> Carrying Case and AC Adapter
> Slim Notebook: 12.1"w x 10.0"d x 1.48"h

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 866MHz
128MB 133MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X[1] Max. DVD opt.)

$1395

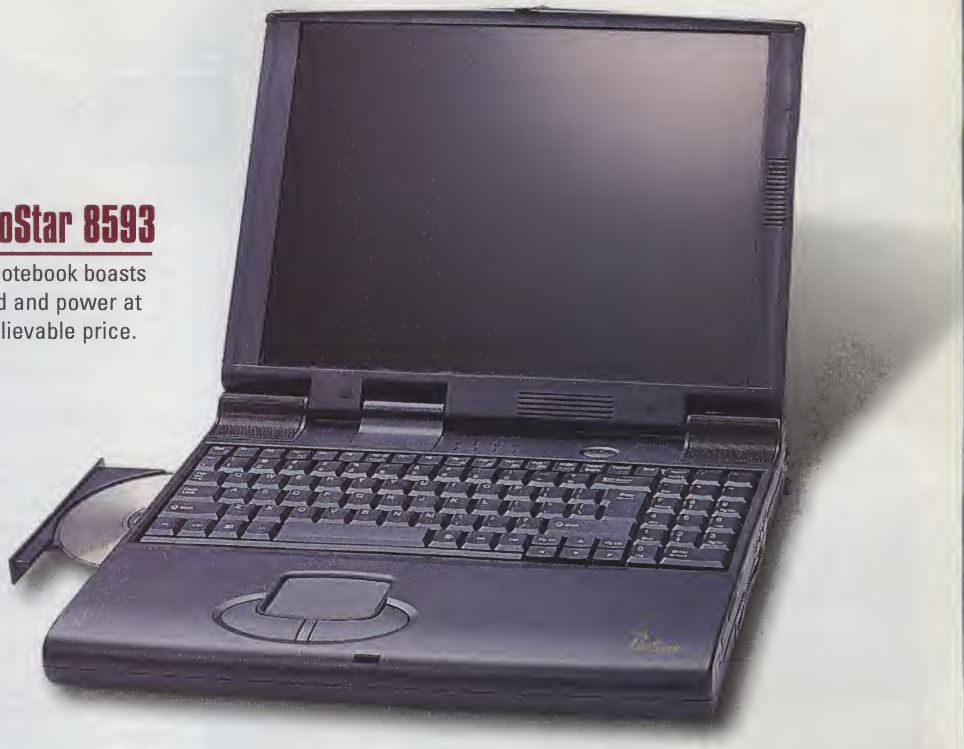
13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 866MHz
128MB 133MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
20.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive (CD-RW opt.)

$1545

ProStar

The ProStar 8593

Our top-of-the-line notebook boasts unrivaled speed and power at an unbelievable price.





2893

Common Features
> 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
> 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
> 10.0GB or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
> 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
> 3D Surround Sound
> 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
> Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
> 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
> 10/100 Ethernet Lan Adapter
> 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
> Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
> Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
> 2 USB Ports
> Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
> Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
> Microsoft® Windows® ME
> Carrying Case and AC Adapter
> Slim Notebook: 12.8"w x 10.15"d x 1.49"h

15" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X[1] Max. DVD opt.)

$1745

15" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
Featuring Intel® Speed Step™ Technology
256MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
20.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive

$1995



2293

Common Features
> 128KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Celeron™ Processor)
> 256KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
> Integrated Ultra AGP Graphics (4x AGP Performance) with 64MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
> 10.0GB, 20.0GB, or 30.0GB Hard Drive opt.
> 3.5" 1.44MB FDD
> 3D Surround Sound
> 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
> Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
> 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
> 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem + 10/100 Ethernet
> Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
> 3 Hot Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
> 2 USB Ports
> Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
> Jacks: 1 Headphone and 1 Microphone
> Microsoft® Windows® ME
> Carrying Case and AC Adapter
> Slim Notebook: 12.1"w x 10.0"d x 1.48"h

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 550MHz
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X[1] Max. DVD opt.)

$1295

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
Featuring Intel® Speed Step™ Technology
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive (CD-RW opt.)

$1595



5190

Common Features
> 128KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Celeron™ Processor)
> 256KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
> Integrated Ultra AGP Graphics (4x AGP Performance) with 64MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
> 10.0GB, 20.0GB, or 30.0GB Hard Drive opt.
> 3.5" 1.44MB FDD
> 3D Sound Effect
> 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
> Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
> 1 Type II PCMCI2A Slot
> 10/100 Ethernet Lan Adapter
> 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
> Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
> 1 USB Port
> Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
> Jacks: 1 Headphone and 1 Microphone
> Microsoft® Windows® ME
> Carrying Case and AC Adapter
> Super Slim Notebook: 11"w x 9.4"d x 1.5"h

12.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 550MHz
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X[1] Max. DVD opt.)

$1195

12.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
Featuring Intel® Speed Step™ Technology
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive (CD-RW opt.)

$1445

Options > Car Adapter > Port Replicator > Numeric Keypad > PCMCIA Cards (V90Data/Fax, Ethernet 10/100 16-Bit, MPEG-II) > Please call for options availability, most options are notebook specific.

Leasing & Warranty Business leasing available on all ProStar systems. Lifetime toll-free technical support. One year parts and labor warranty. 30-day money back guarantee. 3 year warranty from Phillips Magnavox (Optional on every ProStar System).

Special Programs Dealer/VAR, Government and Corporate pricing available. Call a ProStar representative for details.

GSA Contract # GS-35F-5084H

Tech Support 888-576-4742

ProStar Computers, Inc.
1128 Coiner Court, City of Industry, CA 91748
> Tel (626)854-3428
> Fax (626)854-3438
> Hours: Mon-Fri, 7:30am-6:00pm, Sat, 9am-3pm PST
> American Express, VISA and MasterCard Credit Cards Accepted – NO SURCHARGE.

[1]2X Minimum, [2]10X Minimum, [3]Download speeds limited to 53Kbps. Upload speeds are less. Actual data speeds will vary depending on line conditions. [4]Total HD accessible capacity may vary depending on operating environment. ©2001 by ProStar Computer Inc. All rights reserved. Intel, the Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks, SpeedStep and Celeron are trademarks of Intel Corporation. All other companies and product names are trademarks of their respective companies. Dealer price is not subject to 30 days money back guarantee program. Opened software and shipping charges are non-refundable. 30-day money back guarantee does not include return freight or shipping and handling charge. Not responsible for photo or typographical errors.
Price and terms subject to change without notice.





www.shopprostar.com 800.243.5654

SITE REVIEWS

idot.com

From low-cost budget models to powerful monster machines, **iDot** offers customized desktop and notebook computers with a good return policy.

kaypro.com

You can design your own desktop system at **Kaypro,** but the custom configurator doesn't offer as much flexibility as we'd like. The site's notebook area carries a wide selection of Fujitsu portables.

microexpress.net

Micro Express offers built-to-order desktop and notebook computers featuring AMD and Intel processors. Each system includes a 30-day guarantee and a two- or four-year warranty. Business leases are available.





HOME THEATER

avsforum.com

She blinded me with science! The **AV Science Ultimate Forum** is a bustling message board dedicated to discussion of home theater and HDTV. Topics include satellite systems, configuration, and "secrets" of home theater. The forum is the official tech-help area for several manufacturers, including ReplayTV, TiVo, and Harman International.

crutchfield.com

In business for 26 years, **Crutchfield** assembles an impressive catalog of audio and video products for your home and car. Inexpensive two-day shipping is standard for most orders. The extensive Info Center offers glossaries, guides to choosing components, and installation tips.

800.com

Home electronics is the name of the game at **800.com**, a site stocking an unbeatable selection of home-audio and -video components, digital cameras, and personal audio devices. Customer service includes an advice center, live online help, and community forums.

getplugged.com

Plug it in, turn it on, turn it up. **GetPlugged.com** offers oodles of home-theater and electronics gadgets. Use the Build a System feature for instant assistance in creating a home theater suited to your needs. Plug in to the Idea Gallery for fantastic (although not always affordable) concepts in home theater.

harveyonline.com

Harvey Electronics is an upscale retailer of home-theater products that has been in business since 1927. The Web store sells high-end TV, satellite, and home-audio products, plus furniture to put it all on. The site can't deliver all products everywhere, so enter your ZIP code to find out about delivery limitations.

hifi.com

Hifi.com has home-audio and home-theater products to please budget shoppers and discriminating audiophiles. Unique features and policies, including price-matching, a satisfaction guarantee, and extended warranty refunds, set it apart from other consumer-electronics stores.

micronpc.com

One of the largest direct PC vendors, **Micronpc.com** sells computers to home-office users, larger businesses, government buyers, and buyers outside the United States. The Factory Outlet offers refurbished and discontinued systems.

www.mwmicro.com

Go MidWest, young man. **MidWest Micro** offers down-home, custom-configured desktops, servers, and notebook systems. The site's Service Center is exemplary, with a troubleshooting knowledge base and driver downloads that cater to your particular system.

nutrend.com

Custom-configure a home or business desktop PC at **NuTrend Computer Products.** The company stocks machines running your choice of Intel or AMD processors. Each system comes with a three-year warranty.

www.polywell.com/onlinestore

Polywell Computers may not be a household name, but the company offers desktops, workstations, and servers that are worth a look. You'll find massive custom-configuration options.

www.sagernotebook.com

Specializing in notebook computers, **Sager** offers a variety of options, from budget machines to speedy multimedia units. Service includes a 72-hour repair-turnaround guarantee and lifetime free tech support. Business leases are available.

shopprostar.com

Each computer in **ProStar Computer's** line of notebook PCs is backed by a 30-day money-back guarantee, a speedy-repair promise, and free tech support. The handy comparison tool helps buyers zero in on the best model.

sonystyle.com

SonyStyle sells Sony's line of VAIO desktops and notebooks, plus digital cameras, displays, and storage devices. The Xtras Direct section of the site carries add-ons for PCs, digital cameras, and other equipment.

store.apple.com

Apple Computer's well-designed site allows you to custom-configure any Macintosh computer and offers a wide array of Mac-compatible software and accessories. Beware the one-click ordering feature, however—using it may be a bit too convenient for impulse buyers!

www.tiny.com

Britain's favorite direct computer seller is now targeting us Yanks. **Tiny Computers'** line of prebuilt desktop and notebook PCs includes models for professionals and first-time buyers.

unitedmicro.com

Take home a preconfigured Intel- or AMD-based PC, or start with a barebones system and let **United Micro** install the components of your choice.

www.winbook.com

Focusing exclusively on portables, **WinBook Computer** offers machines with a 30-day money-back guarantee, a one-year warranty, and free technical support. Ironically, some of the site's best deals, the daily "Web specials," can only be ordered by phone.



Xi Computer

xicomputer.com

Xi Computer offers high-performance workstations for CAD professionals, Linux aficionados, and other power users. Desktops feature your choice of Intel or AMD processors, including powerful gigahertz and dual-processor systems.

PC RESOURCES

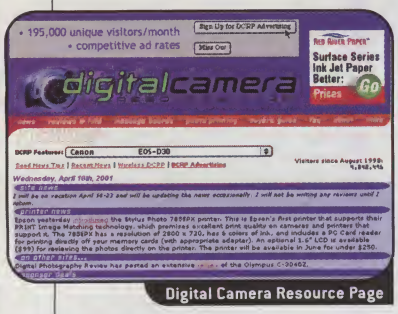
consumerreview.com

ConsumerReview.com helps consumers research products before they buy. The site provides more than 200,000 reviews and ratings for tech gadgets and products for the home, car, and kids.

dailyedeals.com

DailyeDeals' coupon pages offer codes that will instantly shave $5 to $50 off the bottom line at major online retailers. The First Time area links to substantial discounts for first-time customers.

SITE REVIEWS



Digital Camera Resource Page

dcresource.com

The **Digital Camera Resource Page** is an unbiased, comprehensive source of information for digital-camera buyers and owners. Shoppers can glean necessary info from the FAQ page, buyer's guide, message boards, and reviews.

dealnews.com

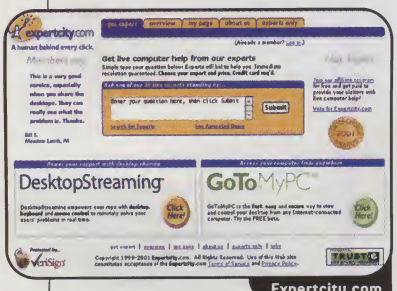
Deal yourself in! **Dealnews** is a fantastic buyer's guide that reports on low-price specials in Web stores. Updated daily, the site discovers deals that range from tempting to nearly impossible to resist. Check out sister site **Dealmac** for Mac-oriented gotta-haves.

dealtime.com

DealTime.com is an independent comparison-shopping service. The site aggregates prices from hundreds of online merchants, auctions, and classified sites. Also, 21st-century shoppers can compare prices by cell phone or wireless PDA, thanks to the site's mobile service.

expertcity.com

Expertcity.com promises live, 24-hour computer assistance from real human beings. When you pose a question, experts across the Internet bid for your business. Read their profiles, compare prices, then choose the expert you like.



Expertcity.com

56k.com

See **56K.com** for a primer on 56kbps modems, a price shopper for buying a modem at the best price, and downloads of the latest firmware. Read the special report on the new V.92 modems.

www.ftc.gov

The **Federal Trade Commission's** Web site is packed with useful information about consumer fraud and how to avoid it—online and off. If you've had a problem with a merchant, you can file a complaint with the FTC Bureau of Consumer Protection online.

gomez.com

Gómez.com offers ratings and customer reviews of e-commerce sites in two dozen categories, ranging from Web-based computer stores to drugstores, apparel vendors to online brokers. Check the ratings on ease of use, customer confidence, and cost.

www.linhardware.com

Will that sleek new laptop run Linux? Find out with the **ZDNet Linux Hardware Database,** where users share their experiences regarding which hardware's compatible with Linux—and which isn't. For the stuff that is, download the appropriate driver and put it to work. (ZDNet is owned by CNET Networks, *Computer Shopper's* parent company.)

nextag.com

NexTag is a sophisticated buying service that can help frugal shoppers find the lowest possible prices on computer equipment, electronics, books, music, and videos. Entering your ZIP code allows NexTag to calculate shipping and tax for accurate pricing.

pdastreet.com

PDAStreet.com, a resource for users of Palm, Windows CE, Psion, and Visor personal digital assistants, offers message boards, software downloads, news, and product reviews.

pricepda.com

PricePDA.com is a price-comparison engine for buyers of personal digital assistants, accessories, and software. Users can access the site anywhere via WAP-enabled cell phones.

resellerratings.com

Want a second opinion before you share your credit-card number with an unfamiliar online merchant? Check **ResellerRatings.com,** which provides customer evaluations of online hardware vendors. Take reviews with a grain of salt: We've seen dozens of negative messages posted by one (very unhappy) person.

techsupportalert.com

Tech Support Alert helps computer users locate the best tech-support information on the Net. You'll find reviews of free and pay-for-support sites, plus how-to guides for Windows users.

usb.org

Check **USB.org** for technical information about the Universal Serial Bus, as well as answers to frequently asked questions and information about devices that use it. You'll find information for shoppers as well as developers.

windrivers.com



WinDrivers.com is a comprehensive archive of drivers and DLL files for hard drives, sound cards, scanners, and other hardware. The site also provides links to antivirus updates and BIOS upgrades.



DIGITAL MUSIC

aimster.com

Aimster is a Napster-like (translation: the record companies won't like it) file-sharing tool that piggybacks onto the Net's instant-messaging services. It allows users to trade MP3s as well as photos, text, and digital files. You can trade music with selected friends rather than sharing with the whole world, a la Napster.

emusic.com

A popular source for guilt-free MP3s, **EMusic.com** sells 160,000 songs by 8,500 artists, including many big names. You can purchase an individual song, usually for 99 cents, or download an entire album for about $9. The Free Tracks area features a lengthy list of songs you can download at no cost.

freenet.sourceforge.net

Freenet is another peer-to-peer alternative for sharing files, MP3 and otherwise. Unlike Napster, it is anonymous and uncensorable. It's also not searchable, making it less easy to use.

gnutella.wego.com

It's the closest thing to the good old days of Napster. **Gnutella** is a peer-to-peer search system that is very similar to Napster, but not limited to MP3 music files. Download a Gnutella-compatible client, linked from this site, and start searching.

liquidaudio.com

Would you like a drink with that? **Liquid Audio** offers a nice 'n' legal alternative to MP3s, serving up songs from major labels in a proprietary format. You can buy music on a per-track or per-album basis from the site's affiliates, then listen to the tunes on your PC or burn them to audio CD.

MP3.com

MP3.com is a melodious source of free and legal music. The selection includes major-label bands and little-known groups just waiting to be discovered. The site also provides great tools for organizing your music.

SITE REVIEWS

SOFTWARE SITES

atomicpark.com

AtomicPark.com specializes in business software, offering free shipping on all orders. Categories include voice-recognition software and fax apps.

beyond.com

Beyond.com presents software for PC, Mac, and PDA users. In addition to traditional boxed titles, the site sells downloadable software from major publishers and a respectable selection of computer hardware. (CNET Networks, *Computer Shopper's* parent company, is an investor in Beyond.com.)

bigclearance.com

You don't have to pay big money for a big box of big-name software. **BigClearance.com** sells "current version software at clearance prices," most with free shipping. The site carries a smallish selection of titles from Borland, Intuit, Macromedia, Microsoft, and other major publishers.

buycheapsoftware.com

The name sums it up. **Buy Cheap Software** offers a relatively small selection—about 300 titles—at deep discounts. The site does sell programs from well-known publishers, including Adobe, Corel, Lotus, and Microsoft.

chumbo.com

In addition to tons of Windows programs and DVDs, **Chumbo.com** features a Linux Store that sells applications for the popular alternative OS.

cws.internet.com

Stroud's Consummate Winsock Applications List is the ultimate one-stop download site for Internet software, including Web-development tools, browsers, and chat clients. You'll find comprehensive file lists, ratings, and extensive reviews. A free newsletter provides summaries of new software releases.

download.cnet.com

CNET Download.com will help you find shareware and free software, linking to thousands of PC, Mac, Linux, and PDA titles. Well-written newsletters and down-to-earth reviews help you to locate the perfect program. (CNET Networks is *Computer Shopper's* parent company.)

ebgames.com

The online arm of the ubiquitous Electronics Boutique stores, **EBGames.com** is a video-game player's paradise, offering 3,000 products. Its home page highlights new releases, coming-soon titles, and top sellers.

freewarefiles.com

Windows users who want software without having to spend any money can start at **Freeware Files.com.** This site features quick links to the most popular giveaways.

jumbo.com

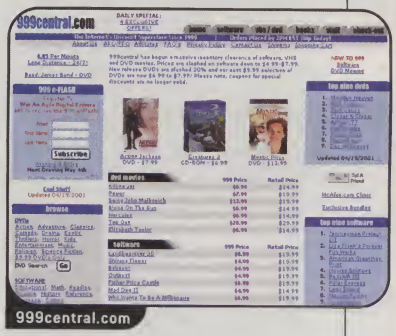
Jumbo is the perfect name for this monstrous file archive, which features programs for sale, commercial-application demos, shareware, and freeware. Jumbo Guides offer articles on backing up, sharing MP3s, and other computing topics.

linux2order.com

Linux2order offers more than 10,000 Linux and open-source applications. You can pick and choose software, or grab a prebuilt distribution. Get your software on a $5 custom-burned CD, as a free standard download, or as a high-speed download for a subscription fee.

999central.com

The price is right at **999central.com,** which stocks 500 software and 200 DVD titles, most for $9.99. Educational, entertainment, and lifestyle applications are the most common.



www.pdfstore.com

The **PDF Store** specializes in software for creating and working with Portable Document Format files, carrying a convenient, focused selection. The site sells shareware and commercial software for immediate download.

softwareoutlet.com

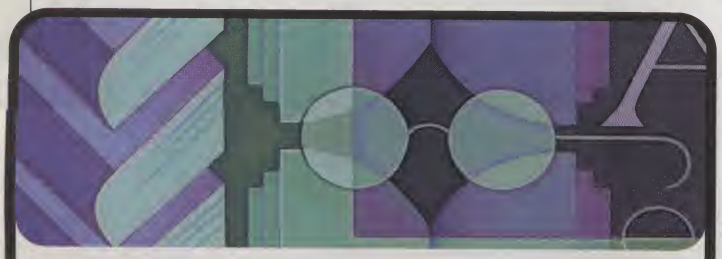
Come check it out, cheapskates! **SoftwareOutlet.com's** a veritable bargain bin. You'll find dirt-cheap apps—older versions, titles from defunct companies, or just plain funky stuff.

www.tucows.com

It's not just bovine bliss: **Tucows** is also an incredible archive of freeware and shareware. Plenty of local mirror sites keep the download process speedy. The category list and reviews make finding the software you seek a breeze.

zdnet.com/downloads

Dude, you'll need more bandwidth. Download shareware, freeware, and demos from **ZDNet Downloads.** The site offers daily software highlights and quick links to the week's most popular software. Every program is rated, reviewed, and checked for viruses, so your new software won't come with any unpleasant surprises. (ZDNet is owned by CNET Networks, *Computer Shopper's* parent company.) ▼



USED BOOKS

abebooks.com

Advanced Book Exchange links shoppers to a network of independent booksellers. Search by author, title, or keyword, or just browse your favorite genres. Collectors can limit searches to first editions or signed tomes.

alibris.com

The elegant **Alibris** offers features for readers, book collectors, and librarians. Search the million-book catalog, then use the message boards to talk to book experts.

bibliofind.com

A fantastic search tool for used and rare books, **Bibliofind** searches 20 million titles at thousands of independent booksellers. Use the free "personal want list" feature for e-mail updates when your favorite titles or authors turn up.

bookfinder.com

BookFinder.com searches 20,000 booksellers for millions of new, used, rare, and out-of-print books. Be patient: This tool is thorough but slow.

half.com

The direct-sales arm of auction giant eBay, **Half.com** specializes in fixed-price, previously owned books, movies, music, and video games. When searching for books, the site ranks them by condition and price.

powells.com

Book lovers will surely know **Powell's,** the independently owned book megastore in Portland, Ore. Search the site's renowned selection of new and used books, browse the staff picks, then join an online reading group.

used.addall.com

A fast and customizable metasearch engine for used books, **AddAll** can be a one-stop shopping source for bibliophiles. It will translate prices into your currency of choice and sort hits any way you prefer. It will not, however, read the books to you.

www.micropro.com

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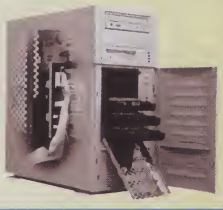
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- 104-key PS/2 Keyboard & PS/2 Mouse
- McAfee Virus Scan for MS Windows
- COREL WordPerfect Suite2000, and 155 CD Titles w/Encyclopedia
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UPGRADE OPTIONS

USB Digital Video Camera	29
Iomega 100MB ZIP Drive Int. IDE	45
Iomega 250MB ZIP Drive Int. IDE	85
3COM 32-bit 10/100 Network Card	59
36-bit Color FlatBed USB Scanner	59
MS Office'2000 Small Business Edition	175
MS Office'2000 Professional Edition	299
MS Home Productivity Bundle	45





NetForce T866Xi

866MHz

Intel® Pentium-III™ processor

$2399

*Business Lease as low as $92.00

Intel® 866MHz Pentium-III processor
Intel® STL2 DUAL processor server board
Intel SC5000 Hudson server chassis
256MB 100MHz SDRAM Memory
27.3GB Three (3) 9.1GB Ultra-160 SCA SCSI HDs
ADAPTEC 2100S Raid 5 Controller 32MB RAM
40X Max SCSI CD-ROM, 3.5" Floppy Drive
Five Hot-Swap SCA SCSI drive bays
Integrated Dual Channel (1) Ultra-160
Intel® EtherExpress PRO/100+ LAN Controller
On-board PCI 2MB Video Adapter
External 56K v.90 Fax/Modem (for remote diagnostics)
104-key PS/2 Keyboard & PS/2 Mouse
3-year parts, 3-year on-site warranty
MS Windows 2000 Server (5-user), add $799

NetForce ISP2900



1GHz

Intel® Pentium-III™ processor

$1659

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Slim 1U 19" Rack optimized Server
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Dual Processor Capable
128MB 133MHz ECC SDRAM Memory
9.1GB Ultra-160 SCSI Hard Drive
24X Max Slim EIDE CD-ROM, 3.5" Floppy Drive
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104-key PS/2 Keyboard & PS/2 Mouse
3-year parts, 3-year on-site warranty
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NetForce ISP2993



933MHz

Intel® Pentium-III™ processor

$1259

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128MB 133MHz ECC SDRAM Memory
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24X Max Slim EIDE CD-ROM, 3.5" Floppy Drive
Integrated 2 10/100 NIC Cards
104-key PS/2 Keyboard & PS/2 Mouse
3-year parts, 3-year on-site warranty
MS Windows 2000 Server (5-user), add $799

*Constellation 9250

1.5GHz Intel® Pentium-4 processor
Intel® i850 chipset w/400MHz FSB
256MB RDRAM (Rambus) Memory
60GB Ultra100 IDE 7200RPM Drive
Hercules Prophet 4500 64MB AGP Card
16X IDE DVD-ROM Drive, 3.5" Floppy Drive
USR v.90 56K PCI WinModem
Creative Labs Sound Blaster! Live 5.1
Deluxe ATX Tower Case 300W P.S.
AltecLansing ACS-54 sound system
19" .26 N.I. Digital Monitor

Intel® Pentium-4™
1.4GHz $1659
NEW! 1.7GHz $1839

1.5GHz **$1729**

*Business Lease as low as $67.00

*Constellation 9180

1.4GHz Intel® Pentium-4 processor
Intel® i850 chipset w/400MHz FSB
128MB RDRAM (Rambus) Memory
40GB Ultra100 IDE 7200RPM Drive
Hercules Prophet 4000XT 32MB AGP Card
12X IDE DVD-ROM Drive, 3.5" Floppy Drive
USR v.90 56K PCI WinModem
Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live! Value
Deluxe ATX Tower Case 300W P.S.
AltecLansing ACS-45.2 sound system
17" .26 N.I. Digital Monitor

Intel® Pentium-4™
1.5GHz $1349
NEW! 1.7GHz $1459

1.4GHz **$1279**

*Business Lease as low as $49.00

*Terminus 7807-PRO

2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports
256MB 133MHz SDRAM Memory
60GB Ultra100 IDE Hard Drive
32MB nVIDIA GeFORCE-2 MX AGP Graphics Card
16X IDE DVD-ROM Drive,
3.5" Floppy Drive
USR v.90 56K PCI WinModem
Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live! Value
Deluxe ATX Tower Case
AltecLansing ACS-54 sound system
19" .26 N.I. Digital Monitor

Intel® Pentium-III™
866MHz $1269
933MHz $1289
*Business Lease as low as $51.00

1GHz **$1319**

*Regata 7950MP

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60GB Ultra100 IDE Hard Drive
Hercules Prophet 4500 64MB AGP Graphics Card
128MB DDR PC2100 266MHz Memory
16X IDE DVD-ROM Drive,
3.5" Floppy Drive
USR v.90 56K PCI WinModem
Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live! Value
Deluxe ATX Tower Case
AltecLansing ACS-54 sound system
19" .26 N.I. Digital Monitor

AMD Athlon K-7 w/3DNOW Technology 266MHz (FSB)
1GHz $1269
1.13GHz $1289
1.2GHz $1309
1.33GHz $1339
*Business Lease low as $56.00

1.4GHz **$1399**

*Caledon 3515CP

128KB Internal L2 cache
2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports
64MB 100MHz SDRAM Memory
30.4GB Ultra66 IDE Hard Drive
56X IDE CD-ROM Drive
3.5" Floppy Drive
32MB nVIDIA TNT-2 2X AGP Graphics Card
PCI 3D wavetable Stereo Sound
56K PCI v.90 Fax/Modem w/Voice
Deluxe Micro ATX Tower Case
Stereo Microphone and 240W speakers
15" .28 N.I. Digital Monitor

Intel® Celeron™
733MHz $729
766MHz $749

800MHz **$769**

*Caledon 7900MP

2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports
64MB 100MHz SDRAM Memory
20.4GB Ultra66 IDE Hard Drive
Integrated Savage4 2D/3D Video Accelerator (shared video memory)
52X Max IDE CD-ROM Drive
3.5" Floppy Drive
PCI 3D wavetable Stereo Sound
56K PCI v.90 Fax/Modem w/Voice
Stereo Microphone and 240W Speakers
Deluxe Micro ATX Tower Case
15" .28 N.I. Digital Monitor

AMD Duron K-7 w/3DNOW Technology
800MHz $669
850MHz $689
900MHz $709
NEW! 950MHz

$739

GREAT GAMES — NVIDIA GeForce3

MINDSTROM G3

***G3-A266**

1.3GHz

AMD Athlon w/Enhanced 3DNOW Technology

$1959

1 GHz AMD Athlon K-7	1879
1.2 GHz AMD Athlon K-7	1929
1.4 GHz AMD Athlon K-7	1999

- 256MB 133MHz SDRAM Memory
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- NEW! 64MB NVIDIA GeFORCE-3 AGP Graphics Card
- 16X IDE DVD-ROM Drive
- 3.5" Floppy Drive
- 12x10x32 CD-RW Internal IDE Drive
- USR v.90 56K PCI WinModem
- Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Platinum 5.1
- Deluxe ATX Tower Case
- Creative Labs Desktop Theater 5.1 DTT2200
- 19" .26 NI Digital Monitor

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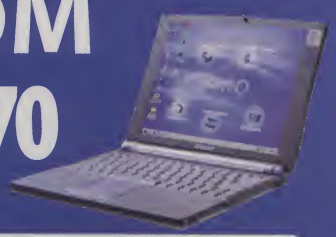
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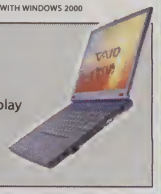
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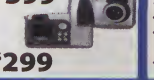
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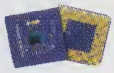
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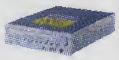
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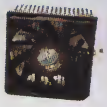


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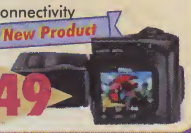
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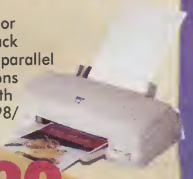
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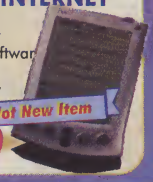
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81.9GB	2MB	5400	M981196H8	$239
Fujitsu				
10.2GB	512K	5400	MPG3102AT	$83
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30.7GB	512K	5400	MPG3153AT	$107
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Sony Mavica	1472x1104	8X/16X	(MVCFD92)	$569
Sony Mavica	1600x1200	10X/20X	(MVCFD95)	$928
Orange Micro iBOT	FireWire Digital Vid.		(70HTL00101)	$99

ULTRA/160 SCSI HARD DRIVES

Seagate

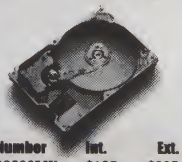


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18.4GB	4MB	15,000	ST318451LW	$339	$469
18.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST318405LW	$249	$379
36.7GB	2MB	7200	ST336737LW	$389	$519
36.7GB	4MB	10,000	ST336705LW	$449	$579
73.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST373405LW	$859	$989
73.4GB	16MB	10,000	ST373405LWV	$895	$1025
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181.6GB	16MB	7200	ST1181677LWV	$1699	$1829

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18.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY318400LW	$259	$389
36.7GB	8MB	10,000	KW336700LW	CALL	CALL
36.7GB	8MB	10,000	TY336700LW	$465	$595
73.4GB	8MB	10,000	KW373400LW	CALL	CALL
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Plastic IDE 66 (DPACART66)	$42	N/A
Metal IDE 66 (DPACARTM66)	$50	$60
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPUWCART)	$61	N/A
EXTRA FRAME		
IDE 66 (DPAFRAME66)	$44	
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPUWFRAMEA)	$51	

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MicroVIDEO DC30pro Dig. Video Editing Soft.Kit	(330001)	$459
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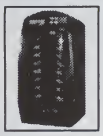
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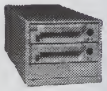
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144GB	4	36GB/10,000rpm	ARR144-10EX	$3039
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2 Drive Desktop Model (FHCASEUSW) $549

• RAID Suitable Enclosures •

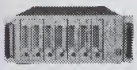


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NEC	CDR3010	40X	85ms	$67	$127
Toshiba	XM6401B	40X	85ms	$69	$129
Plextor	PX40TS(tray)	40X	85ms	$87	$147

• WIDE SCSI CD ROM Drives •

Plextor	PX40TSUW	40X	85ms	$99	$189

• Atapi CD ROM Drives (IDE) •

					Parallel Port
Teac	CD540E	40X	85ms	$43	$98
Mitsumi	CRMCFX48X	48X	65ms	$39	$95
Creative	SBCD52	52X	100ms	$37	$95
Sony	CDU5211	52X	85ms	$39	$95
Acer	CD656A	56X	85ms	$39	$95

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Hewlett Packard 12x8x32 IDE	(C4502A)	$179
Plextor 12x10x32 IDE	(PXW121032R)	$195
Teac 12x10x32 IDE	(CDW512E/KIT)	$169
Yamaha 16x10x40 IDE Bare Drive	(YCRW2100E)	$195
TDK 16x10x40 IDE	(ACDRW161040)	$225
Plextor 16x10x40 IDE	(PXW1610TAR)	$225

• SCSI CD Rewriters •

Plextor 12x4x32 SCSI	Int/Ext	Bare	(PXW12432B/X)	$229/ $289
HP 12x8x32 SCSI	Int/Ext	Kit	(C4506A/X)	$269/ $329
Plextor 12x10x32 SCSI	Int/Ext	Bare	(PXW1210TSB/X)	$249/ $309
Yamaha16x10x40 SCSI	Int/Ext	Bare	(YCRW2100S/X)	$259/ $319

• USB & 1394 CD Rewriters •

Teac 4x4x6 USB	(CDWS4EUSB)	$199
Hewlett Packard 4x4x6 USB	(C4540A)	$185
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Yamaha 16x10x40 1394	(CRW2100FXZ)	$349

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16x	Standard 5/20/50/100 pack	$7/$26/$62/$115
CDR-80 80 minute media		
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• CD REWRITABLE MEDIA •

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Pioneer	SCSI	40X/90ms	10X,120ms	DVD305	$110

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Waveless wireless transmitter allows you to transmit DVD movies from computer to TV [PCTOTV] $89 or $84 w/DVD drive.

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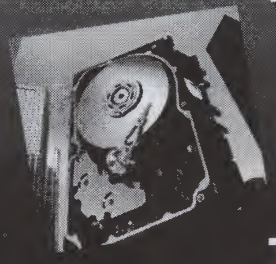
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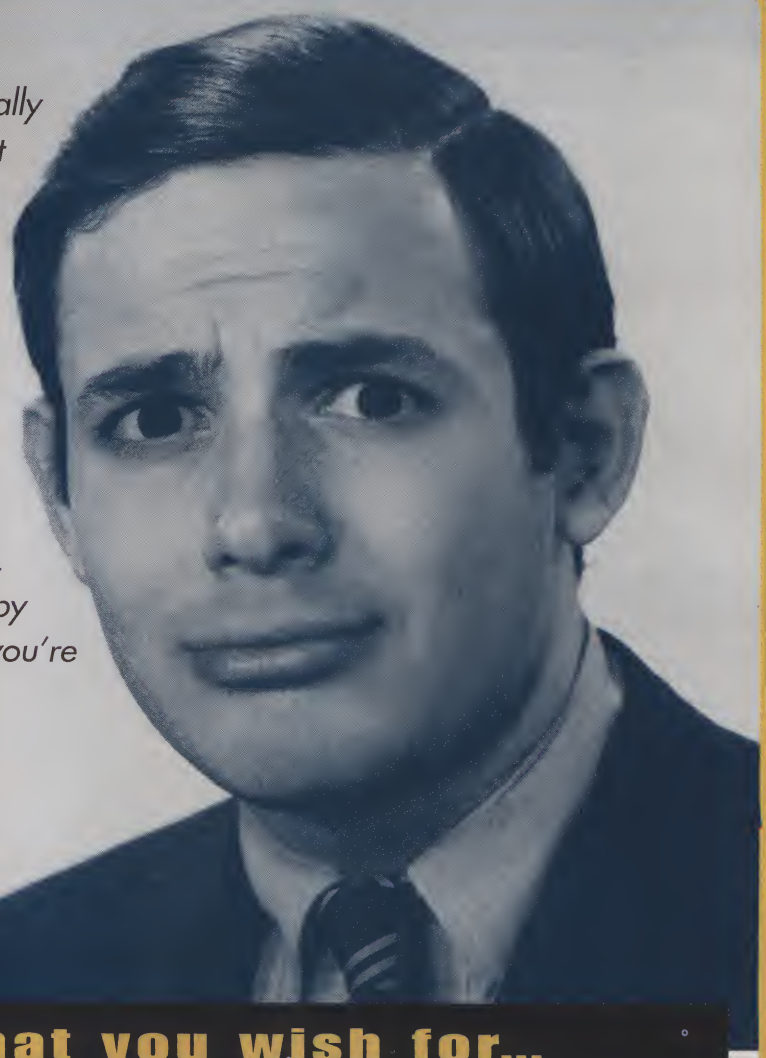
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Disaster Prevention for Web Sites

A record company's site lists thousands of customer names, addresses, and portions of credit-card numbers. A Swiss bank publishes the financial information of its celebrity clients on its site. A university medical center exposes patient records. These are just a few examples of the Web-site privacy disasters speakers described at the recent e-Security Conference & Exposition in Boston.



"Web-site privacy problems usually escalate to disaster proportions if they result in litigation or bad press, if a large number of people are affected, or if very sensitive personal information is involved," Ron Perry, CEO of **IDcide,** a provider of e-business privacy tools, told attendees. Such blunders could erode consumer confidence, threaten business and partnerships, and even prompt government investigations.

Many disasters occur due to lack of communication; other times it's just plain carelessness. In the case of the Swiss bank, the IT department used real data to test the system before security measures were in place.

Another common mistake Web sites make is using a "GET" instead of a "POST" form when sending acknowledgments of submitted information. An insurance site, for instance, may use a GET form to acknowledge receipt of a member's Social Security number. The GET form embeds the member's number into the URL for anyone standing by the PC to see. Worse yet, if the company returned an image with the message, the third-party image supplier would also see the number.

Perry advised companies to establish and enforce a privacy policy, and to ensure those with access to Web servers know and understand that policy. Also, make certain every procedure is verified.

—Nancy A. Lang

Wireless Apps With a Future

By 2005, 96 million Americans will be using wireless devices, according to Jupiter Research. But what will they do with those devices? Here's Jupiter's take on the apps you may soon be able to put to use in your own business, and those you may not.

APPLICATION	SHORT-TERM STATUS	LONG-TERM STATUS	TRENDS
Video Streaming			Low consumer demand. Cost is equal to 10 phone calls.
Instant Messaging			Already big in Europe, and demand should grow in U.S. Packet data infrastructure will make it more feasible.
Digital Imaging			Peer-to-peer photo sharing will start out in Japan, grow in U.S. and Europe in three years. Necessary infrastructure being readied.
Location-Based Directories			Convenience. Necessary infrastructure being readied.

Source: Jupiter Research

Significant hurdles exist | Shows promise | Technolgy in place

ILLUSTRATION BY BEK SHAKIROV

A Geek With a Gun

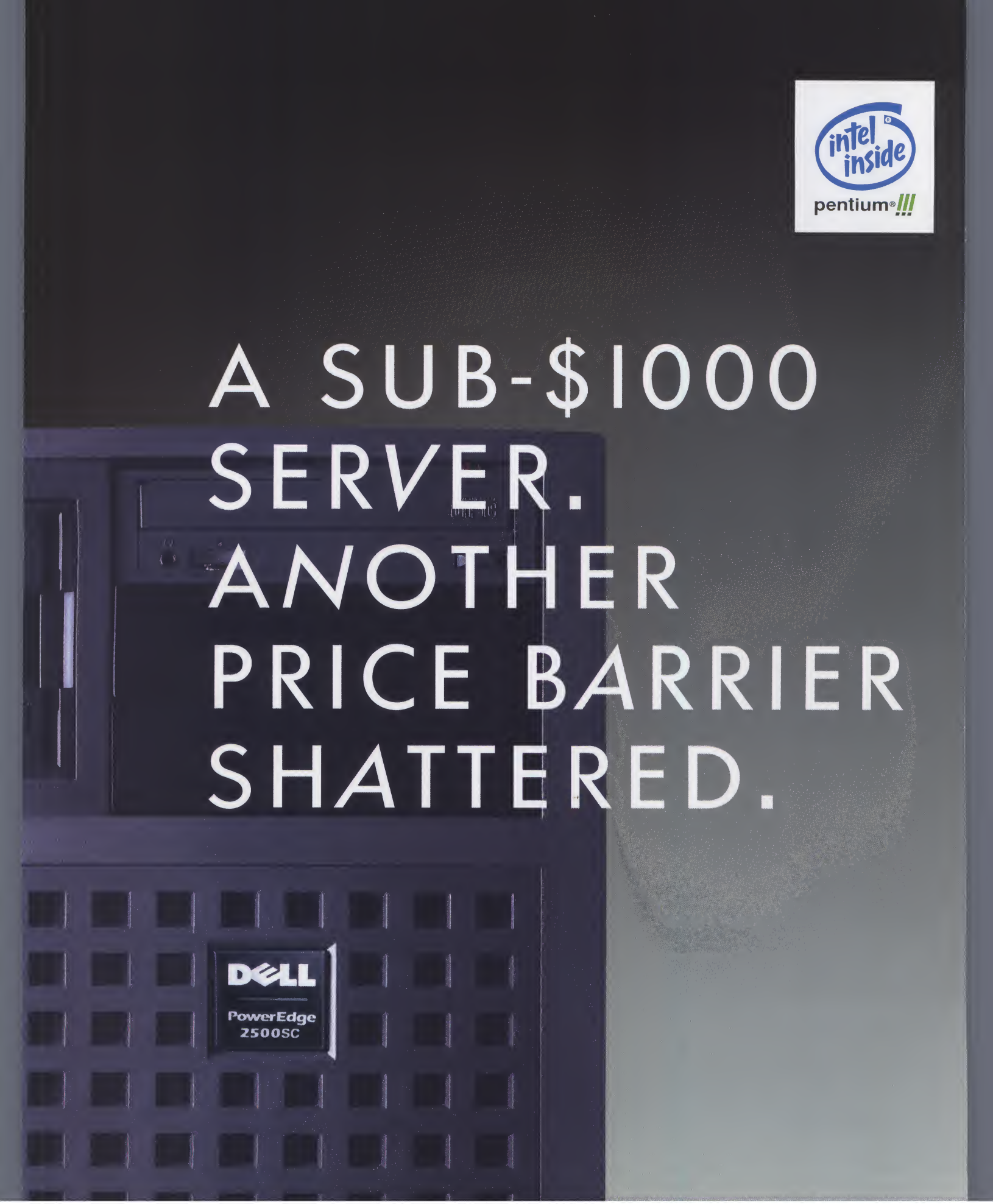
David E. Green has seen it all: extortion, fraud, espionage, and denial-of-service attacks. The principal deputy chief of the **U.S. Department of Justice's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section (CCIPS)** told attendees of the e-Security Conference & Exposition in Boston he's also seeing links between hackers and organized crime.

For e-commerce sites, the threats may be less dramatic, but they can be equally devastating, including loss of trade secrets and other confidential information, as well theft of customers' credit-card numbers. Compounding the situation, hackers' skills are becoming increasingly sophisticated, while users' skills are becoming less so, thanks to easy point-and-click applications.

Green spelled out four parts to an effective risk-management strategy: prevention (firewall and encryption technology, as well as workforce education and monitoring), intrusion-detection systems, deterrence (letting hackers know you'll take action), and insurance.

Green lamented the low reporting rate of computer crime, noting only 6.8 percent of respondents to the latest CSI/FBI Computer Crime and Security Survey said they would report such crime to law enforcement, mostly due to the perceived shame of being a victim.

He said cybercrime resulting in losses (they must be above $5,000) should be reported because law enforcement has better tools, including subpoenas, search warrants, and tools for examining outgoing and incoming traffic. He recommended conference attendees check out the CCIPS Web site ***(www.cybercrime.gov)*** or the FBI's InfraGard program ***(www.infragard.net)***. The FBI, he noted, has 17 Computer Crime Squads around the country, which he affectionately referred to as "geeks with guns." *—N.A.L.*


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E-SERVICES AND TOOLS

Campaign Promises

BY RICH CASTAGNA

Web marketing services help you get your company's message out.

A BRILLIANT IDEA ALONE DOESN'T GUARANTEE SUCCESS; YOU NEED TO market your product to establish a brand identity. The American Marketing Association *(www.ama.org)* defines marketing as "the process of planning and executing the conception, pricing, promotion, and distribution of ideas, goods, and services to create exchanges that satisfy individual and organizational objectives."

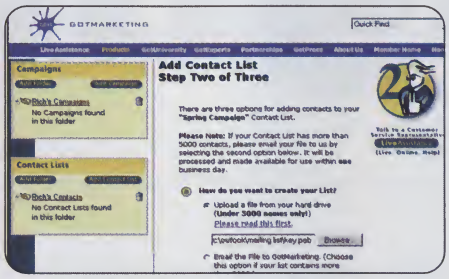
Creating a marketing campaign can be daunting, but the Internet can make it a lot easier. Numerous marketing firms not only offer their services online, they'll also show you how to use the Web to help quell your fear of marketing.

You'll discover countless ways to tout your wares on the Web. Fortunately, the easiest and most widely available—direct e-mail, banner ads, and search-engine submissions—are also the most effective. These are some of the services available at GotMarketing and LinkBuddies, two marketing sites whose offerings are reasonably priced—if not free—and easy to use.

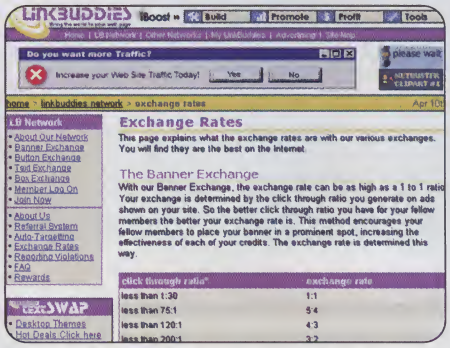
GOTMARKETING *(WWW.GOTMARKETING.COM)*

GotMarketing's key products are Campaigner and InfoWatch. Campaigner, a direct e-mail marketing service, makes mass mailings a snap. This opt-in or permission-based mailing facility uses your contact list for distribution; it's not a spam-generating service that blasts thousands of e-mails to unsuspecting recipients. You could use your own e-mail client to do mailings, but that becomes tedious and tiring as the volume rises. And your client software isn't designed for e-mail marketing, so you won't get any statistical feedback indicating your campaign's effectiveness.

Campaigner uses a browser-based interface, so you don't need any additional software. You can upload your mailing lists from a variety of sources, including Microsoft Outlook, Excel, or comma-delimited text files. Later, you can merge additional lists with your master list; Campaigner detects and eliminates duplicates. Using the same browser interface, you create your message and select a format: text, HTML, or AOL.



To get started with GotMarketing's Campaigner, upload your mailing list in Excel or Outlook format.



When you place an ad with LinkBuddies, the number of times it appears depends on how many clicks the ads on your site produce.

You can even select different formats for different recipients. Finally, you set the date and time you want to launch your campaign.

With your campaign off and running, Campaigner logs statistics for tracking replies, failed deliveries, and removal requests. Reports, available in real time, include information on click-through rates for live links within your messages.

If your mailing list doesn't exceed 99 addresses, you can try Campaigner free. Above that, prices are based on the number of addresses, with a minimum of $99 ($150 for 1,000 addresses, $500 for 5,000, and $1,000 for 10,000).

GotMarketing's InfoWatch is a Web-clipping tool that searches sites for mentions of your company, your products, your competitors—or even you. You decide where to search and what to look for. When InfoWatch finds something that matches your specifications, you get an e-mail notification, as well as access to a full report. It's a great way to monitor your efforts and keep tabs on your competition.

LINKBUDDIES *(WWW.LINKBUDDIES.COM)*

LinkBuddies' marketing services concentrate on Web advertising, with four free ad-exchange programs, as well as inexpensive paid promotions.

The idea behind an ad exchange is simple. You submit your ads, indicating the appropriate categories for your products and services, and the service places them on other exchange members' sites. In return, you agree to host other members' ads. You just have to paste a few lines of HTML into your pages, and the exchange's servers dish up the ads. The frequency with which your ads appear depends on the success of ads running on your site; the more click-throughs you generate for others, the more placements you get.

LinkBuddies offers four types of ads: banners, buttons, boxes, and text. The first three are all graphical advertisements, diminishing in size from banner to button. You can determine how many of each type you want to appear on your pages. The service also lists about 150 Web-site types on which to place your ads. You can even receive e-mail reports on your ads' click-through rates.

LinkBuddies ensures offensive ads don't appear on your site. But if you don't want to risk uncertainty, you can skip the exchange and simply buy ad placements from iBoost, LinkBuddies' parent company. At press time, you could get 5,000 banner impressions for $40 a month, or 50,000 text-link impressions for $20. iBoost also offers packages that include ad placements and search-engine submission, starting at $19.95 per month. ▼

be your customers' back-fence neighbor

e-tailers have to strike a balance between anticipating customers' needs and minding their own business.

by hans peter brondmo

"who's gonna patronize a little bitty, two-by-four kinda store anymore?" a traveling salesman laments aboard a train to River City, Iowa, in Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*. Back in 1912, Main Street, U.S.A., was threatened by folks driving their Model T Fords to the county seats' larger, less personal stores.

Almost a century later, cars are back in the garages, and online shoppers are reverting their attention to the Main Street model. They want all the choices and possibilities Internet commerce offers, with levels of personal service associated with homegrown retail values. E-mail marketing can bridge that divide.

In small-town Iowa of 2001, you can still walk into the corner Walgreens and hear over the public-address system that your prescription is ready before you even approach the pharmacy counter. That's because the pharmacist, your back-fence neighbor who gave you comb honey from his hobby farm last fall, saw you walk in, and took the initiative to refill your prescription while you stopped at the photo counter.

Developing online loyalty is no different. To stand out from the ever-growing number of competitors with a Web presence, you must become a back-fence neighbor to your customers. Know them by name, and begin meeting their needs as soon as they arrive online. You also need to know when to mind your own business and give customers the privacy they seek.

respect the customer

Industry parlance may be stuck on the phrase "opt-in," but to a back-fence neighbor, it's just a matter of respectful and honest communication. Technology makes it easy to blanket a population with messages, but coinage of the term "spam" shows how little customers value such communication and the companies that perpetuate it.

Opt-in marketing programs require that consumers take some sort of action—often, checking a box—before receiving e-mail solicitations. This may result in fewer initial customers than a program that defaults to inclusion, but those who interact with retailers by choice tend to be more valuable customers in the long run. And their relationships begin with a foundation of clear communication.

The next step is to nurture those relationships. Back-fence neighbors get to know each other slowly, first talking about the weather while mowing lawns, then about their families and hobbies. They don't bombard each other with probing personal questions about incomes and choice of toilet tissue the first time they meet.

Similarly, online companies must build trust slowly so customers grow willing to reveal more personal information. Consumers expect to be in control of their online relationships, and you must be explicit in conveying how the data you gather will provide that control by giving them only the information they'd appreciate receiving.

To build that trust, develop privacy policies and post them clearly. A key part of

handling private information is making sure that it's stored securely and that access is password-protected. Customers should be able to call up their personal profiles and change or update the data as they see fit.

Perhaps the fastest way to breach customers' trust is to share their personal information without permission. Consumers who choose to engage in an e-mail marketing relationship do so for a specific purpose. If they find their online retail neighbors gossiping with others, they have numerous tools to end the friendship immediately. It's tough to build a big enough fence to keep out your real neighbor or to get telemarketers to quit calling the phone number you've had for a decade, but it's easy to click "unsubscribe" or change an e-mail address.

know the customer personally

If your back-fence neighbor knows you're allergic to honey, he's not likely to offer you the dripping combs from his hobby farm. He may give you fresh cabbage because he knows you like coleslaw, or he may just hold off until he has something else he knows you like.

E-tailers should put their database of personal information to good use as well. It doesn't do any good to ask questions about product preferences unless you filter your e-mail correspondence based on the answers. Customers provide information so their interactions will be more rewarding. If they're greeted by name with offers for products or services tailored to their needs and wants, they're more likely to respond to those offers, and they'll look forward to receiving relevant, service-oriented e-mail on a regular basis.

To further understand your customers and refine the scope of targeted marketing, move beyond self-reported information. Monitor how customers respond to e-mail correspondence, track those customers' actual purchases, and consider individual Internet habits. Aggregate Web-site hit data does little to help e-mail marketing relationships, but knowing a certain customer routinely visits three travel Web sites can be useful to a site that counts luggage among its offerings. As consumer relationships grow, supplement purchase and interest profiles with emotional profiles: What colors, pictures, and sounds help move people to make purchases?

slow and steady

Building a successful e-mail marketing campaign is an enormous undertaking, often requiring hardware updates, new procedures, and new staff roles, if not new staff members. You need to update databases and IT systems to allow customers to provide their e-mail addresses anywhere they interact—while viewing home pages or purchasing items. Your Web site must make it easy for customers to ask for information by e-mail. It must also make it easy for customers to alter or end the relationship. You need to think through the handling of complaints before they start arriving.

Staffing will draw on resources from a variety of departments. Among the most critical roles will be that of the individual responsible for managing relationships between the company and consumers. An e-mail marketing manager who coordinates initiatives with a marketing strategist should assist this person, and a number cruncher should be available to analyze customer data with sophisticated models.

Because information presentation is critical, you'll need a team of content-creation specialists. This team should consist of a creativity coordinator who works with graphic designers and copywriters specializing in Web-based copy. You'll also need a technical team cross-trained in marketing to implement and maintain the database and related applications. Finally, a quality-assurance specialist should monitor the entire system.

Tailoring e-mail interaction is a balancing act between automated procedures and the hands-on attention human beings provide. You can automate order confirmations or birthday messages, but it takes people to answer specific e-mail questions or participate in live chats.

put it to the test

By implementing these principles, a number of national companies are becoming back-fence neighbors, welcomed into dialog with their customers on their own turf. Petco, for instance, communicates to its customers by e-mail, personalizing the messages based on members' interests, pet preferences, and purchase behavior. It even sends special messages on customers' pets' birthdays. The company delivers content-rich e-mail on topics such as pet health and news targeted to each member's pet type, as well as offers based on a member's purchase history.



ILLUSTRATION BY BEK SHAKIROV

E-mail marketing service relationships are being invented and reinvented daily, and they'll evolve even faster in the months and years ahead. Web sites, instant messaging, and wireless devices are the tip of the iceberg. The technology of 2001 will soon look as antiquated as that of 1912 does today.

But it will still hinge on people—people who want an online community of back-fence neighbors who know them by name, know their interests, and respect their privacy. They'll demand the best of both worlds: the opportunities of today and tomorrow coupled with the relationships of yesteryear. Technology, when overlaid with respect, honesty, and a focus on service, will continue to bridge those worlds.

Hans Peter Brondmo is a Netcentives fellow and author of The Eng@ged Customer: The New Rules of Internet Direct Marketing *(HarperBusiness, 2000).*

NETWORKABLE

file sharing made simple

by RICH CASTAGNA

Say goodbye to "unknown format" messages and hello to more complete workgroup collaboration.

It's the 21st Century

and just about any computer anywhere can hook up with another, either directly or via the Internet. So why can't Joe in the art department open that e-mail attachment from Frank in marketing?

Heterogeneous networks that link PCs running disparate operating systems were supposed to solve the file-sharing problem. And most of today's popular network software does, when combined with client software that lets PCs running different operating systems share resources on the same server. The networks also provide a platform for easy file swapping, but they typically can't compensate for operating systems with varying file formats. Two identical documents—one created on a Windows PC, the other on a Mac—would remain foreign to each other, just as two people saying the same thing in two different languages would have no idea what the other is saying.

That's not to suggest progress hasn't been made. ASCII has been the basic text idiom since PCs began popping up in offices. Strip away the proprietary file structures and document formatting, and you'll usually end up with good old ASCII, which does okay getting a basic text message from one computer to another but fails miserably at getting the received document to look like the one sent.

Thanks to the Web, the array of standard file formats has grown beyond ASCII to include graphics formats such as JPEG and GIF. These file types work fine for the Web or intranets, but they represent only a small part of the file-sharing picture.

Alternatives to the file-swapping dilemma abound, with solutions ranging from workable to elegant. Most assume your network already has a ready transport for files, such as a shared disk drive on a LAN, e-mail (either on an internal network or via the Internet), or—at the bottom of the file-sharing food chain—common removable media such as floppies.

Ambidextrous Applications

The easiest way to ensure nearly transparent file sharing is to use applications that run on a variety of operating systems. The best known, and perhaps the best, is Microsoft Office. Not only do its Windows and Mac versions look and work alike, they're both so accommodating to each other's files, your users may not even realize they're crossing OS boundaries as they work.

Office apps are pretty smart—at least

smart enough to recognize when a file isn't in its platform's native format. All the file converting takes place behind the scenes, with only minimal user involvement. Use Word for Windows to open a Mac Word file, for instance, and the Convert File dialog box pops up. Office being such a savvy swapper, all you need to do is click OK. Create an Excel worksheet on a Mac, and you can edit it on a Windows PC, and then edit it again on the Mac. Office goes beyond its immediate file family, too, extending its conversion arms around Corel WordPerfect documents, Lotus spreadsheets, and other non-Microsoft file formats.

Office isn't the only suite that can flip files between platforms. Corel's WordPerfect Office 2000 and Lotus' SmartSuite have similar document dexterity, although neither offers a Mac version. Corel's suitemates offer extensive file compatibilities, especially for corresponding Office apps. If you need to work with a file on a Mac, you can save WordPerfect documents in Microsoft Office document formats the Mac versions can open. WordPerfect Office 2000 also comes in a Linux version, so you can import and export Word and Excel files between Windows and Linux.

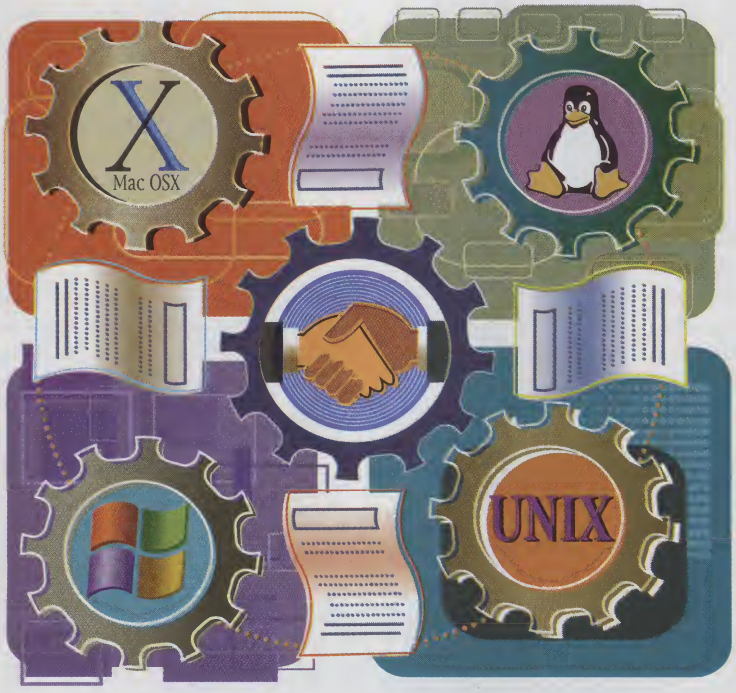
Windows-only SmartSuite has to rely on its compatibility with Microsoft Office applications to extend beyond its OS host. You can share Word, Excel, and WordPerfect files (Open and Save As) in Windows, but then you'd have to use Word or Excel to make them available to a Mac.

Sun Microsystems' StarOffice for Linux is the most popular version of the StarOffice suite, but it's also available for Windows, with applications that parallel those in Office. By allowing file access between the two versions, Sun lets your Linux aficionados function effectively in a Windows environment. StarOffice also touts file compatibility with Microsoft Office apps, but in practice that compatibility falls shy of 100 percent, especially for work that requires heavily formatted documents or advanced features such as change tracking or revision marking. Still, most simple documents, spreadsheets, and presentations can flow freely and relatively unscathed between Sun's office-suite universe and planet Microsoft.

When you're dealing with data other than typical office-application files, exchanging that information can get a bit dicey. Most database-management systems, for instance, use proprietary file formats. Luckily, however, most of those database apps adhere to standards such as Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) and Structured Query Language (SQL), which allow a fairly free exchange of data.

Conversions R Us

With Microsoft Office formats as de facto file standards, it's easy to find compatible applications—that is, as long as you stick to bread-and-butter office-application documents. If you use less ubiquitous applications, file swapping gets tougher. Software vendors realize files created with their applications may be accessed from within a competitor's app, so most build in some degree of file compatibility. If you're lucky, your applications will include the file filters and translators your users need to read and modify files sent by colleagues and customers. If you're unlucky, they'll be stuck converting files to basic, swappable formats such as ASCII and then rejiggering the formatting.



Not only is this time-consuming, it makes it far too easy to lose something in the translation. Shuttle a file back and forth a few times, and it may end up bearing little resemblance to the original. A category of utilities has emerged to solve this problem. These utilities act as interpreters between platforms and applications.

DataViz *(www.dataviz.com)* has been getting PCs and Macs to work and play together for more than 15 years, with flagship products such as Conversions Plus. The $69.95 *Conversions Plus 6.0* for Windows lets you open Mac files on a Windows PC, then view them, print them, and even convert them to Windows-friendly formats. MacOpener 2000 for Windows 5.0, selling for $49.95, lets Windows PCs do something Macs have been able to do for a long time: read Mac floppies and other removable media such as Iomega Zip and Jaz disks. You can even use a Windows PC to format the media for Macs.

Also from DataViz, the $99.95 MacLinkPlus Deluxe 12.0 takes the Mac perspective, offering essentially the same file-opening and -conversion capabilities. It lets Mac users open files created by dozens of Windows apps, including Excel, Corel Quattro Pro, Lotus 1-2-3, Microsoft Visual FoxPro, and PC Paintbrush. It even opens compressed files.

Mediafour *(www.mediafour.com)* offers similar disk-level compatibility with its $49.95 MacDrive 2000 for Windows. This utility lets you use a Windows PC to view, open, and copy Mac files stored on a variety of disk types, including floppies, Jaz and Zip disks, Orb media, and CD-Rs. You can also format those media types for the Mac. A free downloadable trial version offers all the features of the full product, but it self-destructs in five days.

Both DataViz and Mediafour offer volume licensing or multiple-unit purchase plans for all these products.

If You Can't Beat 'Em, Be 'Em

Using the same family of applications on two different OS platforms or tapping conversion utilities to work as middlemen between otherwise contrary applications should cover most file-swapping needs. But the easy way out doesn't always work. The programs you need may not be available in multiple-OS versions, or perhaps you're running less prevalent or custom apps. In those cases, you may be better off getting down to the core issue: the OS itself. Emulation programs let you turn your system into two or more PCs, each running a different OS.

Using an emulator is more cumbersome than whipping a file through a conversion

ILLUSTRATION BY BEK SHAKIROV

utility, but working on files in their native formats without any conversion could help guarantee their integrity.

Virtual PC 4 from Connectix *(www.connectix.com)* lets Mac users run Windows applications and use the file types associated with those apps, essentially turning a Mac into a Windows PC. It's particularly handy for opening, reading, and modifying Windows files received as e-mail attachments. Mac users can also run Web-based applications intended for Windows PCs, such as those that employ Microsoft's ActiveX controls.

Virtual PC 4 works with any Mac with a G3 or G4 processor running Mac OS 8.5 or later. With Mac OS 8.5, you can do Windows 95, 98, and NT emulation; for Windows 2000 and Me emulation, you need Mac OS 9.0. And you can suspend emulations without shutting them down, so you can resume in just a few moments. (Virtual PC 4 won't work with Apple's newest OS, OS X, which includes a "classic" environment option that supports legacy Mac applications.) Virtual PC supports Ethernet and works with most popular networking protocols, including TCP/IP, IPX (Novell NetWare), and Microsoft's Remote Access Services (RAS) and Virtual Private Networking (VPN).

Another version of the program, Virtual PC 3 with Red Hat Linux, offers similar emulation functionality for Mac users connected to a Linux-based network. Also for Macs with G3 or G4 processors, it allows a Mac to run Linux programs compatible with Red Hat Linux 6.1.

Although Virtual PC files aren't actually converted between the two operating systems' formats, you can copy and paste text between Windows or Linux applications and Mac apps.

Available for $299, VMware Workstation 2.0 lets you run multiple operating systems simultaneously so you can work with files in their native formats with the applications used to create them. By doing so, you may be able to avoid the file-conversion issue altogether. Using what it calls Multiple-Worlds technology, VMware creates virtual machines in one PC, making the physical resources available to different, and often incompatible, operating systems.

VMware Workstation supports all flavors of Windows, many different Linux distributions, and FreeBSD. You can run each of your operating systems in a window or in full-screen mode; if one OS crashes, others aren't affected. Like Virtual PC 4, emulations can be suspended without shutting them down. If you need to transfer information between applications running on different operating systems, you can use cut and paste.

SHARING, SORTA

For those groups within your organization that just need to share information, not change it, viewing programs may suffice.

File viewers let you open files while maintaining the files' original formatting and presentation. The most familiar example is Quick View, which comes with Windows. (Just right-click on a file and select Quick View from the pop-up menu.) Quick View will also be a File menu choice if Windows has a viewer for the selected file. Jasc Software's Quick View Plus 6 ($49, download; $59, boxed) adds a multitude of Windows file types and also lets you view Mac files from Microsoft applications.

For groups that just need to share information, not change it, a file viewer may suffice. Quick View, included with Windows, and Adobe Acrobat are common examples.

Other noteworthy file-viewing utilities include Canyon Software's Drag And View (*www.canyonsw.com/dnv.htm,* $30 to $90, depending on conversion capabilities); Verity's KeyView Pro (*www.verity.com/keyview,* $59), which you can install across a network from a central location; and FileStream's Turbo Browser 2001 (*www.filestream.com/turbobrowser2001,* $89.95).

Adobe's Acrobat file viewer lets you capture entire documents regardless of the application used to create them. Acrobat maintains the original formatting and embedded graphics, and saves the document in Portable Document Format (PDF). You need a copy of Acrobat Reader to view the files. It's free, can be used standalone or as a browser plug-in, and is available for both Macs and Windows PCs. To create PDF files, you need the $249 Acrobat 5.0, unless you're using an application such as WordPerfect 9, which can save documents as PDF files.

Most word processors and spreadsheets can't open and edit PDF files. But using Acrobat to disseminate your information ensures what the recipient sees is an exact match of the original. Acrobat Reader lets you search words or strings of text in PDF files, and copy and paste text, although you'll usually lose most of the formatting. Acrobat's so widely used on the Web, your users probably already have it installed as a browser plug-in.

The official language of the Web is HTML, so you'll find tons of tools available for creating HTML documents your users can view with virtually any browser. It's usually more difficult to re-create the original formatting of a document with HTML than it is with Acrobat, but you get more than just a document-transport medium. Today, most applications can open HTML documents, and with many you can easily edit them using the applications' standard set of editing tools. Keep in mind, though, that you have no assurance after a few rounds of editing an HTML document that it will bear any resemblance to the original.

Foreign-Exchange Program

The methods you use to deal with alien files in your workplace depend on your specific needs. In a mixed-platform, collaborative working environment, you'll be best served by sticking to applications that can seamlessly open and save swapped documents in non-native formats. You can use file-conversion utilities to augment cross-platform applications, especially if you need to edit files created by older or less common applications. For e-mail attachments, a viewer is probably all a user needs to open an attached file and see it as it was intended. For users disseminating standardized information such as forms and manuals, consider Adobe Acrobat.

For the times you find yourself awash in foreign files, perhaps after a merger or acquisition, consider hiring a file-conversion service to handle a one-time renovation of all the old documents. ▼



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MAX409-7200	40900	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$134
MAX614-5400	61400	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$152
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MIT4805OEM	8X/4X/32X	ATAPI OEM	135MS	2048K	$87

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TO1214GAP	12000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$114
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IBM www.ibm.com

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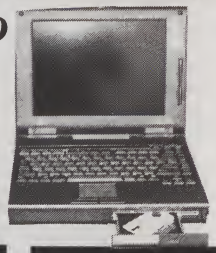
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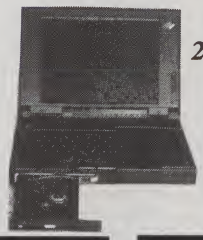
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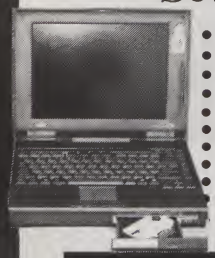
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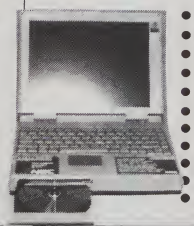
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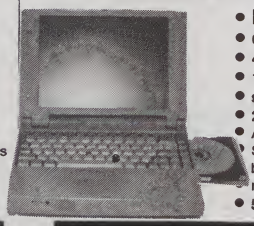
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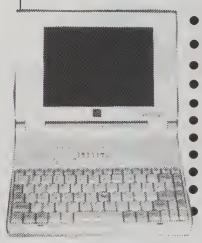
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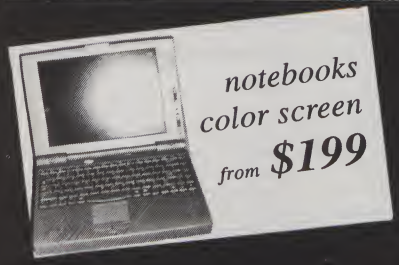
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ALICE & BILL

The Hard Edge

BY ALICE HILL AND BILL O'BRIEN

A Whimsical Look at Today's Web; Bill Does FireWire; and the Game Boy Sewing Machine?

DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT IT'S ALMOST JULY. BILL IS PLANTING GROUND cover over the Basement of Doom and Pepsi-Cola, Alice is taking some sun on the veranda by the pool at stately Hill Manor, and we're hearing absolutely nothing of importance from the computer industry—except the thud of tech stocks (or is that tech executives?) falling from the trees. So, welcome to the "Hard Edge" of whimsy.

Why whimsy? When people began taking the Web seriously, they forgot the Web was really a disturbing collection of oddities and incredibly strange interests. Where else could you hear the demented phone messages of a jilted girlfriend *(www.psychoexgirlfriend.com)* or view Lego porn? (Don't even ask; you're on your own finding that one, but it exists.) This was the real Web, and it had little to do with the Microsofts, Intels, and AOL Time Warners of the world.

Alice decided to revisit the original spirit of the Web, taking a technical tour through the underground caverns and freak shows in search of hidden technical "treasures." Here are some notable sites that do strange stuff with a technical twist. Now maybe we'll understand once and for all why Cisco's stock is in the toilet.







The Web-Enabled Coffee Sleeve

Never mind that it costs 75 cents apiece to feature your logo on a Starbucks coffee sleeve: From the land of excess comes the Web-enabled coffee sleeve. It's marked with a special ink from BriteVision Media that, when read by a scanner or specially configured Webcam, whisks you to the advertiser's Web page.

Let's see; the average click-through on a banner ad is somewhere between 0.2 and 0.4 percent. What could the "click-through" be on waving a cup of scalding liquid at your Webcam? See for yourself at *www.britevision.com/corporate/news/0011.htm.*

The Game Boy-Operated Sewing Machine

Ahhh, nothing goes together better than a gaming machine and a sewing machine. They're both machines, see? Sure enough, someone has figured out how to customize a Game Boy to run a cool-looking new Singer sewing machine called the Izek *(www.meetizek.com)*.

Alice isn't much of a marketing expert, but she couldn't see the need for an iMac-looking sewing machine with a Game Boy interface. Was Singer hoping 12-year-olds would suddenly see sewing as the ultimate in hand-eye coordination? True, women in their 30s now make up a big portion of Game Boy sales, but when asked why they buy the machines, most of them say they spend so much time running errands and waiting to pick up kids from various activities that the Game Boy is a quick way to have a little fun and blow off some steam. Not exactly what Alice would call the sewing crowd, but if there's anyone out there dying to make a custom shirt, Alice will lend you her Game Boy so you can whip her up something special.

The Cement-Mixer Entertainment Pod

Complete with state-of-the-art surround sound, 12 monitors, cable-TV and satellite feeds, DVD player, and Sony PlayStation2, this is the finest cement-mixer pod we've ever seen. Sound funny? Not when you realize Neiman Marcus actually sells them for $70,000. Mix it up at *www.joysticknation.com/mixer/mixer_info2.htm.*

The Stainless-Steel Business Card

The decade of excess meant blasting past conventional costs and spending big on even the smallest things. Not exactly high-tech, but a perfect example: the stainless-steel business card. Wonder how many dot-commers flashed these pricey numbers before going under? For a look at the business card that lasts longer than you, check out *www.metalcards.com/stainless-steel-business-cards.html.*

The Stun-Brella Defense System

Who said e-commerce was dead? Not when sites that cater to the paranoid are thriving. Case in point: the Stun-Brella *(www.spyproducts.com/Stunguns1.html)*. "Tough enough to instantly put down even wild thugs for 3 to 5 minutes—without permanent damage. Why not enjoy high-power security without looking like a riot cop?" Why indeed.

BEYOND FIREWIRE

There was Bill, sitting around the Basement of Doom and Pepsi-Cola, wondering why none of his computers had IEEE 1394 (FireWire) ports. Sure, they all had USB ports, but those little devils are so slow compared to their FireWire cousins it's not even a contest. Confounding the issue was the fact that while the Mac world had popularized USB and the PC contingent fanned FireWire into favor, things had gone all backwards, with the Macs holding onto the faster interface and PCs getting the slug. It just didn't make any sense.

What shows up in Bill's e-mail box but a press release from a company called AVerMedia *(www.avermedia.com)* announcing the release of its new three-port IEEE 1394 card for PCs. That's just too coincidental for someone like Bill to pass up.

ALICE & BILL

After turning the St. Anthony statue right side up, he got in touch with the company.

Surprise. AVerMedia (AV as in "audio/video") doesn't do just IEEE 1394 cards. It has a whole pile of neat stuff most of us probably have no use for, but almost all of us will at least mildly lust after.

For starters, how about AVerTV USB? It's a little device with a TV tuner and video decoder that plugs into and is powered by your PC's USB port. No cards, no IRQ conflicts, no slot hunting—just a 181-channel cable-ready tuner with coaxial TV-antenna input, S-Video input, and composite-video output. It even offers parental lockout. (No, kids. That doesn't mean you can lock your parents out.)

You can find other gadgets and widgets (such as a document camera), but the piece of least resistance is the AVerEPack. If you take PowerPoint slides on the road, you no longer need to lug your heavy 4-pound portable with you. At three-quarters of a pound with its remote control, this nifty device accepts a CompactFlash card filled with your PowerPoint slides and other images, and connects to a projector, television, or even VGA monitor. It supports slide-sequence editing, cut, copy, paste, delete, hide, and several other features. If you need resolutions higher than 640 by 480, the upscale AVerEPack300 supports 1,024 by 768. (But don't try that on a television. Most don't do well with computer images above 640 by 480.)

Bill spent about two hours browsing the Web site, looking at stuff he absolutely didn't need but would love to have. (The AVerDV IEEE 1394 card with Ulead Video Studio worked fine, by the way.) Imagine how much time he would have spent there if he actually needed some of the products.

WHY ASK WHY? (PART 2)

We've all seen the news footage. The FBI, DEA, local police, or whatever, catch some international tech-no-goodnik and come stumbling out of the person's house carrying every piece of computer equipment they could find.

Aside from imagining what might survive a ride in the backseat of a police cruiser, Bill started to wonder. The authorities confiscate the equipment to learn what information the person they've arrested knew. So they need the hard drive and any removable media they find on the scene.

Because extracting just the hard drive would be time-consuming, Bill can understand why they'd take the computer, keyboard, and mouse. But why glom the monitor and printer? Do they suspect they'll power up the monitor and see a residual image of a critical message that was passed to a foreign baddie? And how about the printer? In these days of toner and ink cartridges, it's doubtful even Perry Mason could produce evidence of past printed materials. It worked in the days of film ribbon cartridges, but no words are written backwards, letter by letter, in toner dust or ink splats.

What do they do with that computer equipment when they're done? Is it returned? No, not usually, not if the person is convicted and sometimes even otherwise. It's often put up for auction. Therein lies the rationale. Anyone who's browsed eBay knows you can get more for a complete system than for just the CPU in a box.

Why glom a suspect's monitor and printer when just the hard drive and removable media will do? Because a complete system earns more at auction.

SMOOTH MOVE

Alice isn't a tip writer, but she stumbled across an unused feature in Windows 98 that reminded her of the old graphics-card wars of the early '90s. Back when graphics cards were pricey and the market was hotly competitive, companies worked to get a leg up in every way possible. One tactic was to improve the way fonts appeared on the screen. Eliminating "jaggies" by blending in a gray color helped rid screen fonts of the stair-stepped look.

While fooling around with her system one day, Alice discovered Windows 98 offers font smoothing as a built-in feature, but as is typical of Microsoft, the feature was left turned off as a default. To enable font smoothing on your system, here's all you need to do. Double-click the My Computer icon on your desktop. Choose View > Folder Options, and select the View tab. Scroll down the list of checkboxes to "Smooth edges of screen fonts." Check the box, then click Apply. Your fonts should now be smoother.

Of course, Alice claims her fonts look blurrier at certain type sizes (typical Microsoft), and Bill is aghast that she's dug up the font-smoothing crusade after it died off so many years ago. Still, "Hard Edge" newcomers may like a taste of the past and the new look of their fonts. Besides, that was what all the fun was about.

AND IN CONCLUSION

Bill has managed to remain virtually unscathed by the financial death of the technology market. That's because he was stupid (or so he was told at the time) and didn't buy any technology stocks when things were going great. (If you ask Bill, he'd probably tell you it was less a matter of far-thinking insight and more a fear of the IRS, which has a controlling interest in his disposable income.)

Alice, despite being afflicted with rolling blackouts, has written a brilliant piece in the June issue of *Shopper* ("Boom to Bust," p. 178) on why the tech economy died. (Of course, if you're reading the online version of "The Hard Edge," the linking person may have already slam-dunked a link for you somewhere around here.) It's based on the premise of the seven deadly sins, a grouping of social and moral no-nos we're told (by Bill) are based on the "Hard Edge" Greed & Stupidity Principle.

Why such shameless self-promotion? Well, it hasn't been done in a while, and it's important for all the new readers to realize Alice and Bill are more than just two-dimensional characters who write a column. There are sides to them many of you, even some long-time readers, haven't seen. For example, apart from the column and reviews, did you know Bill does Linux stuff for CNET Linux Center? (Bill? Linux? Hey, can you please help that guy next to you back to his feet?)

Anyway, what they really meant to say here was, "Happy 225th Birthday, America." When you take that break to drop Alice and Bill a line, send a birthday card to America. You have no idea how much an older country appreciates that sort of thing.

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105LPX socket 370	375	11.9x12.6x3.4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO,GAME, IR	1	1/1	2 0	
106 socket 7	260	12.4x14.5x3.4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO, GAME	1	1/1	2 or 0	
108NLX socket 370	375	12.4x14.5x3.4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO,GAME, IR	1	1/1	2 or 1	
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Case Specification & Price List

Model	Price	Dimension W.D.H.	MB Size	5.25 Ext./Int.	3.5 Ext./Int.	P.S.
R02 BARE	300	19x17.6x3.5	M.ATX	1/0	1/1	150W
R04B/W	290	19x24.3x3.5	ATX	1/0	1/3	250W
R08 B/W	1675/2300	19x22x3.5				
R12 B/W	305	19x19.7x7	B/ATX	4/0	1/0	250W
R14 B/W	230	19x21x7	B/ATX	3/0	1/3	300W
R15	325/550	19x24.4x7	ATX	6/0	2/2	300W
R16 B/W	240	19x18x7	B/ATX	3/0	1/2	250W
R20 B/W	290	19x20.5x7		8/0		300W
R21 B/W	290	19x18x7		8/0		300W
R22R/B/W	635/950	19x23.3x10.5	ATX	8/0	1/0	300W/R
R26R/B/W	630/850	19x22.6x10.7	ATX	4/0	2/4	300W/R
R28	290	19x17x8.7		8/0		300W
RSP	18	5.8x9.3x1.6			1	
RSM169	65/75	5.8x9.3x1.6			1	
001B	75	10x11.5x3		1/0		60W
001B1	65	8.3x10.6x2.8		1/0		50W
002B	88	6.9x14.6x5.8		2/0		60W
002B1	78	7.5x11.2x6.5		2/0		80W
004B	105	6.8x15.3x9.3		4/0		230W
004B1	100	7.5x17.3x10.2		4/0		200W
007B	180	7x15.8x13		7/0		250W
008B	280	8.4x20.2x18.3		8/0		300W
008B1	180	7.5x17.9x17.1		8/0		250W
103LPX	330	12.4x14.5x3.4	LPX	1/0	1/1	95W
104NLX	460	12.4x14.5x3.4	NLX	1/0	1/1	85W
105LPX	375	11.9x12.6x3	LPX	1/0	1/1	90W
106LPX-7	260	12.4x14.5x3.4	LPX	1/0	1/1	85W
108NLX bare	375	11x13.6x3.4	NLX	1/0	1/1	135W
192M.ATX	85	13.1x16.5x3.5	M.ATX	1/0	1/1	150W
224	75	17.4x18.8x6.1	ATX	3/0	2/2	230W
267	75	16.8x16.8x6.2	ATX	2/0	2/1	250W
271	90	17.3x15.9x5.5	ATX	2/0	1/1	250X
288	75	16.9x17x6	ATX	3/0	2/1	230W
325B	75	8x18.5x17	ATX	3/0	2/1	235W
327	72	7.5x16.5x17.3	ATX	3/0	2/2	230W
337	88	7.8x18.8x16.5	ATX	3/0	2/2	300W
338	55	7x14.7x13.8	M. ATX	2/0	2/1	145W
366	50	7.2x15.5x14.3	M. ATX	2/0	1/1	235W
367	55	7.7x16.5x17	ATX	3/0	2/1	235W
370	88	8.3x17.3x16.1	ATX	3/0	2/2	250W
392	80	7.5x17x17	ATX	3/0	2/2	250W
393	95	9x17.5x17.5	ATX	6/0	1/1	250W
396	55	8.3x17x15.5	ATX	3/0	1/3	230W
401	110	8.5x17.3x18	ATX	2/0	2/2	250W
408	80	8.2x19.8x18.4	ATX	3/0	1/5	250W
411	62	7.2x17.2x16.8	ATX	4/0	2/1	250W
412	62	7.2x17.2x16.8	ATX	4/0	1/2	250W
413S/BL	62	8.5x19.5x18	ATX	4/0	2/1	250W
414P	62	7.2x20x16.8	ATX	4/0	2/1	250W
422	70	7.7x16.6x18.1	AT	4/0	1/4	250W
424	70	7.5x18.9x16.7	ATX	4/0	2/1	250W
426B/W/S	80	7.5x17.5x19.3	ATX	3/0	2/2	250W
436	70/85	8.6x18x15.6	ATX	3/0	2/2	250/300W
455	110	8.5x17.5x18.6	ATX	4/0	2/3	250W
465	195	9.3x17x17.2	XEON/ATX	2/0	2/2	300W
467	85/100	7.5x16.7x18.8	ATX	3/0	1/4	250W/300W
470	110	8.3x17.3x21.3	ATX	4/1	1/2	250W
472	60	7.5x18x17.6	ATX	4/0	2/2	250W
482B	80	7.8x19.8x17.5	ATX	4/0	2/2	250W
486	67	9.6x19.5x17	ATX	4/0	2/1	250W
489**	85	7.3x17x17	ATX	3/0	1/2	235W
490	70	8.5x15.5x15	ATX	2/0	2/2	250W
491B	70	8.5x15.5x15	ATX	2/0	2/2	250W
496	60	8.25x17.8x16.5	ATX	4/0	1/3	250W
501	185	8.25x17.2x23.8	ATX	4/0	2/4	300W
503R/B	455	14.8x20.4x18.4	ATX	8/0	2/4	300RW
503/B	305	14.8x20.4x18.4	ATX	8/0	2/4	300W
505	510	14.6x23x26.8	ATX	12/0	1/8	300W
505R	705	14.6x23x26.8	ATX	12/0	1/8	300RW
506/R	155/370	7.8x16.5x24.4	ATX	6/0	2/2	300W/R
524	380	13.9x25.6x19.1	ATX	7/0	1/2	300RW
526B/W	105/120	7.5x17.5x24.5	ATX	6/0	1/4	250W/300W
528	95/110	7.5x16.5x24.8	ATX	6/0	1/5	250W/300W
536	93/108	7.8x17x24	ATX	5/0	1/5	250W/300W
538	290	8x20.5x24.5	ATX	5/0	1/6	300RW
555/B/R	440/680	11x19.3x23.6	F	4/8	0/0	400W/300R
555/R	440/700	11x19.3x23.6	ATX	4/8	0/0	300W/300R
560/R	290/445	15x24.5x23.5	ATX	11/0	2/4	300W/300R
562/R/B/W	250/470	8.7x17.9x26.8	ATX	9/1	1/0	300W/300R
563/RB/W	145/370	8.7x17.9x26.8	ATX	10/0		300W/300R
565	195	9.25x18.3x21.2	XEON/ATX	4/0	2/4	300W
568	105/120	7.5x17x22.8	ATX	5/0	2/4	250W/300W
569B/W	225	13.5x17.8x14	B/ATX	6/2	0/8	300W/300W
570/R	150/370	8.3x17.3x26.4	ATX	7/1	1/2	300W/300R
571/R	160/370	8.3x17.3x26.4	ATX	6/1	1/2	300W/300R
582	105/120	7.8x16.5x23.2	ATX	6/0	2/1	250W/300W
588	105/120	7.8x16.5x23.3	ATX	5/0	1/3	250W/300W
1400/R	715	16x20x24	F/ATX	14/0		300R
1620/R	950	16.5x20.3x34.3	F/ATXx2	16/0		300R

*Case Color: Blue, Purple, Green, Orange, Red.

**Case Color: Blue, Purple, Green, Red, Black.

Model# Starts with:

1 for Slim Case
2 for Desktop Case
3 for Mini-Mid Case
4 for Mid Case
5 for Full/File Server Case

Side Open: Side Panel can be removed independently
Slide Door: Sliding front door up and down
Slide MB Plate: Motherboard tray ca slide in and out form rear

MB SIZE = MOTHERBOARD SIZE • F= FULL SIZE • B= BABY SIZE
X=ATX • M. ATX= Micro ATX
R= REDUNDANT POWER SUPPLY WITH HARDSWAP
250XB= Ball Bearing

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8x8x32	IDE	Pacific Digital U-30102	$116	$156
10x4x32	IDE	HP SureStore 9340I	$148	$188
12x8x32	IDE	Acer CDRW1208A	$122	$162
12x8x32	IDE	HP SureStore 9500I	$189	$229
12x10x32	IDE	Pacific Digital U-30104	$132	$172
12x10x32	IDE	Lite-On LITE1210	$134	$174
12x10x32	IDE	Teac CDW512E	$159	$199
12x10x32	IDE	Creative Labs CDB121032	$144	$184
12x10x32	IDE	Plextor PX-W1210TA/SW	$179	$219
16x10x40	IDE	Pacific Digital U-30099	$175	$215
16x10x40	IDE	Teac CDW516E	$205	$245
16x10x40	IDE	Yamaha CRW2100EZ	$218	$258
16x10x40	IDE	Plextor PXW1610TA	$224	$264
16x10x40	IDE	HP SureStor HP9700I	$274	$314
8x8x24	SCSI	Pacific Digital U-30091	$160	$200
12x8x32	SCSI	HP SureStore HP9600SI	$276	$316
12x10x32	SCSI	Plextor PXW1210TS/SW	$280	$320
16x10x40	SCSI	Yamaha CRW2100SZ	$272	$312

For ThorTek SCSI External add $60

DVD Drives

(add $25 for black)

BTC	IDE	12X DVD / 40X CD ROM BDV212B	$69
Lite On	IDE	12X DVD / 40X CD ROM LTD122	$69
Toshiba	IDE	16X DVD / 48X CD ROM SDM1502	$79
Pioneer	IDE	16X DVD/ 40X CD ROM Tray DVD116	$85
Pioneer	IDE	16X DVD/ 40X CD ROM Slot DVD106	$85
Creative Labs	IDE	12X DVD/ 40X CD ROM OVATION12X	$95
Creative Labs	IDE	12X Complete Kit CLE12XDVDI	$140
Pioneer	SCSI	10X DVD / 40X CD ROM DVD305S	$124
Addonics		8X/24X USB$289/CardBus$299/FireWire	$345

CD ROM Drives

For ThorTek USB External add $79

				Beige	Black
52X	IDE	LiteOn	LTN525	$39	$64
52X	IDE	Creative Labs	BLASTER52X	$44	$69
56X	IDE	BTC	G621D	$39	$64
56X	IDE	Acer	CD656A	$44	$69
40X	SCSI	Plextor	PX40TSI	$89	$114

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SOCKET A (Tbird) Call for a great deal on a processor!!				
ABIT	KT7E	$105	KT7-RAID	$159
	KT7A	$129	KT7A-RAID	$149
ASUS	A7PRO	$129	A7V	$109
	A7V133	$149	A7A266	$165
FIC	AD11	$149	AZ11	$79
	AZ11E	$102	AZ11EA	$110
GIGABYTE	GA7VTX	$196	GA7ZXR	$122
	GAZ1XE4	$88	GA7DXR	$212
MSI	KTMASTER	$173	K7T266PRO	$155
	K7TMASTER	$270	K7TTURBO	$118
IWILL	KA266	$155	KA266RAID	$165
	KK266	$119	KK266RAID	$155
SOCKET 370 (Flip Chip/Celeron)				
Asus	CUSL2-C	$120	CUV4X	$115
	CUSL2	$145	CUBX	$125
	CUV266	$235	(Includes 128MB DDR)	
SOCKET 423 (Pentium 4)				
ASUS	P4T	$199		
GIGABYTE	GA-8TX	$209	GA-8TXC	$195
INTEL	BOXD850GB	$189	BOXD850GBAL	$215
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MSI	850PRO	$179		

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701CS

SCSI Hard Drives

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18.4GB	7200rpm	QM318300XCLW	4mb	$229
18.4GB	10,000rpm	QM318400TYLW	8mb	$252
36.7GB	7,200rpm	QM336700XCLW	4mb	$395
36.7GB	10,000rpm	QM336700TYLW	8mb	$460
73.4GB	10,000rpm	QM373400TYLW	8mb	$900
SEAGATE				
9.2GB	10,022rpm	ST39205LW	4mb	$204
18.4GB	7200rpm	ST318417W	2mb	$235
18.4GB	7200rpm	ST318437LW	2mb	$228
18.4GB	10,000rpm	ST318405LW	4mb	$250
36.7GB	10,000rpm	ST336737LW	2mb	$390
36.7GB	10,000rpm	ST336705LW	4mb	$452
181.6GB	7200rpm	ST1181677LW	4mb	$1659
I B M				
9.1GB	7200rpm	07N3120	4mb	$180
9.1GB	10,000rpm	07N3220	4mb	$198
18.2GB	7200rpm	07N3110	4mb	$260
18.3GB	10,000rpm	07N3210	4mb	$265
36.4GB	7200rpm	07N3100	4mb	$430
36.9GB	10,000rpm	07N3200	4mb	$468

Black Components

COMPUTER CASES	
Antec Mid ATX 250W Desktop 7 bay case	$99
MidATX case HYDRAULIC FACE 250W/300W	$89/119
Full ATX case HYDRAULIC FACE 300W	$139
Fong Kai Super Mid Tower ATX 300W	$119
Explorer III Mid ATX 7 Bay computer case	$89
NIKAO Mid ATX Silver and Black 300W	$109
MONITORS	
Viewsonic 17" 1280 x 1024 - .25	$209
NEC 17" 1280 x 1024 - .25	$269
Antec 17" 1280 x 1024 - .28	$309
Viewsonic 17" 1600 x 1200 - .22	$379
IBM 19" 1600 x 1200 - .26	$369
Viewsonic 19" 1600 x 1200 - .26	$370
NEC 19" 1792 x 1344 - .25	$449
IBM 21" 1920 x 1440 - .24	$1145
Viewsonic 15" 1024 x 768 LCD	$699
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Teac or Sony 1.44mb Floppy	$25
LS120 120mb Removable Media Drive	$119
Iomega 100MB Zip IDE	$99
Iomega 250MB Zip IDE	$159
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Klipsch	
ProMedia 2.1, 3 Piece, 200 Watts, THX	$199
ProMedia 4.1, 5 Piece, 400 Watts, THX	$299
ProMedia 4.2, 6 Piece, 400 Watts, THX	$359
Altec Lansing	
ATP3, 3 Piece, Thin Profile, 30 Watts	$79
ACS56, 5 Piece, Digital, 35 Watts total	$115
ATP5, 5 Piece, Surround Sound, 80 Watts total	$139
ADA890, 5 Piece, THX, 120 W	$265
Creative Labs	
CSW1500, 4 point surround, 53 Watts	$130
DTT2200, 6 Piece, Desk Theatre 5.1, 42W	$115
PS2000, 2 Pc, Playwork Digital Dolby, 22W	$175
DTT2500, 6 Pc, Desktop Theatre, Dolby, 42W	$215
DTT3500, 6 Piece, Desk Theatre, 5.1, 65W	$259
Sonigistix Monsoon Flat Panel Speakers	
MM500, 3 Piece, 51 Watts	$80
MM1000, 3 Piece, 50 Watts	$157
MM2000, 5 Piece, 340 Watts	$229

HOT Sellers

ATI All In Wonder Radeon 32MB Video Card	$255
Elsa Gladiac Ultra 64MB DDR GeForce 2 4x AGP	$289
VisionTek GForce 3 64MB DDR 4x AGP	$379
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HP9900C 12x10x32 IDE CD-RW, 8X DVD	$316
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Creative Labs Sound Blaster Platinum 5.1 Sound	$175
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IDE Hard Drives

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10GB	4500rpm	QMP10000LD	$81
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20.5GB	7200rpm	QMP20000AS	$110
30GB	4500rpm	QML30000LD	$108
30GB	7200rpm	QMP30000AS	$134
40GB	4500rpm	QML40000LD	$122
40GB	7200rpm	QMP40000AS	$152
60GB	7200rpm	QMP60000AS	$218
SEAGATE			
10GB	5400rpm	ST310211A	$84
20GB	5400rpm	ST320413A	$93
20GB	7200rpm	ST320414A	$108
30GB	5400rpm	ST330621A	$106
30GB	7200rpm	ST330620A	$135
40GB	5400rpm	ST340823A	$123
40GB	7200rpm	ST340824A	$162
I B M			
15GB	7200rpm	07N5637	$102
20GB	7200rpm	07N6652	$119
30GB	7200rpm	07N3929	$146
40GB	5400rpm	07N3926	$127
45GB	7200rpm	07N6654	$160
60GB	7200rpm	07N6655	$263
75GB	7200rpm	07N3935	$286
MAXTOR			
10GB	5400rpm	2R010H1	$85
10.2GB	7200rpm	5T010H1	$92
15GB	5400rpm	2R015H1	$90
20.4GB	5400rpm	32049H	$98
20.4GB	7200rpm	5T020H2	$112
30.7GB	5400rpm	33073H	$110
30.7GB	7200rpm	5T030H3	$134
40GB	7200rpm	5T040H4	$159
60GB	7200rpm	5T060H6	$224
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81.9GB	5400rpm	98196H	$265
SAMSUNG			
40.8GB	5400rpm	SV4084H	$119

IDE Accessories

Promise PCI Ultra-100 controller	$45
IWILL PCI Ultra 100 RAID Controller	$79

External enclosures for IDE drives (assembly avail)
Parallel $84 USB $84 Fire Wire $144

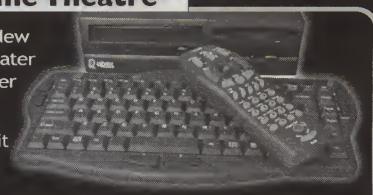
2.5" IDE for Laptops

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20GB	IBM	9.5mm	07N4388	$142
20GB	Toshiba	9.5mm	HDD2154	$179
20GB	Hitachi	9.5mm	DK23BA20	$180
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your own digital domain

by JAY MUNRO

With a little planning, it's relatively easy to build a starter Web site.

Most everyone, from huge online stores to mom-and-pop delis, has a Web site these days. Even average families are creating their own sites to share photos and information with friends and relatives. If you're concerned about the complexities of Web-site design, you shouldn't be: Building your own is becoming point-and-click simple.

A Web site is, in some respects, nothing more than files stored on disk space on a computer connected to the Internet. Web surfers access files, or Web pages, through their browsers, which interpret code that describes how the page is displayed. Popular graphical Web editors such as Microsoft FrontPage and Macromedia Dreamweaver let you build Web pages by dropping elements onto the page and using dialog boxes to change their properties and add links. And you don't need to know a lick of HTML to create a simple site.

This month we'll guide you through the steps necessary to get your own Web site up and running, from securing server space to building your Web pages to publishing your pages online. We constructed our sample site—a basic business-card site—using the $149 Microsoft FrontPage 2000, but the steps would be similar using Macromedia's $299 Dreamweaver 4.

1. Find Your Web Space

If you already pay for dial-up or broadband Internet access, chances are your Internet service provider (ISP) makes available 5MB or more of space you could use to experiment with your own site. First, check with your ISP to find out how much space is available to you and whether the provider has a cap on the download bandwidth (the amount of visitor traffic you are allowed). Another good alternative for small, basic sites is a free hosting service such as Yahoo GeoCities *(geocities.yahoo.com)* or Freeservers *(www.freeservers.com)*.

If you need more space for your Web site, you'll have to pay for a Web-hosting provider. Web-hosting services have many levels, but when starting out, going with a shared host probably makes sense. Such space can cost as little as $10 a month, and storage amounts typically range from 75MB to 150MB for starter sites. You also are allotted a set amount of download bandwidth, usually 1GB to 5GB a month. **Tip:** If you are using FrontPage as your Web-authoring tool, make sure your host provides FrontPage server extensions, which will allow you to add elements such as search forms and hit counters.

2. Get a Domain Name

Your domain name is simply an alias for an Internet Protocol address that directs users to your site, through the Domain Name System (DNS). If you want a site that a few friends and family can visit every now and then to view photos or read your latest pithy thoughts, the domain name you get with your Web space should suffice. For instance, at Freeservers, your domain becomes username.freeservers.com, so

that Michael Primopages might go with michaelprimo.freeservers.com. If Michael insists on michaelprimo.com, however (primo.com is long gone), he'll need to register the domain.

A domain name is registered for a period of one to 10 years with a central registrar and costs about $30 to $35 per year. The easiest way to register is through your Web-hosting service when you buy your Web space. If you want to register your name before you find a Web host, you can do it yourself with a service like Network Solutions ***(www.networksolutions.com)*** or Register.com ***(www.register.com)***, which can "park" your name. When your site is ready, your hosting provider can arrange the transfer.

Tip: Domain-registration services such as Network Solutions and Register.com let you search for available domains. The search tools of some sites, including Register.com, will identify the owner of the domain and when the registration is scheduled to expire.

3. Plan and Gather Content

When building your first Web site, keep it simple, and begin with at least a rough sketch of what you want, including text, images, and links.



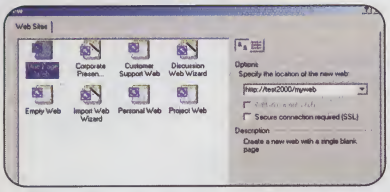
For your first site, plan something basic like this simple "business-card" site.

As you gather photographs and graphics, make sure to keep file size in mind: The smaller the files, the more you can fit within your allotted Web space, and the faster your site will load when browsed. As a rule of thumb, resize images at 72 pixels per inch (screen resolution) to fit the space you want on the screen, and save images in JPEG (.jpg) format. Graphics work better as GIFs.

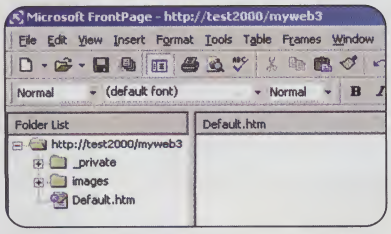
4. Create the Site Locally

Begin building your site by defining it on a local hard drive. Using FrontPage, select File > New > Web to create a new Web-site structure. You can set the folder location or accept the default location of \My Documents \My Webs\. When your site opens, click on Default.htm (or Index.htm, depending upon your installation) to open a blank page. FrontPage creates a separate images folder for graphics.

Tip: When you create a new Web site, FrontPage lets you choose from several templates you can use to build your site.



In FrontPage, you begin building your site by choosing File > New > Web.

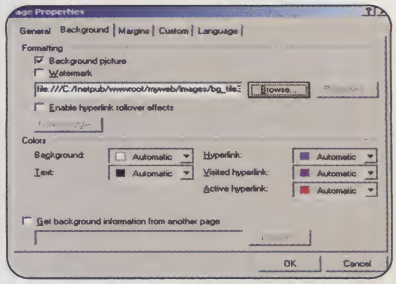


Click on the Default.htm page to begin building the site.

5. Set Background Color or Image

To set a background image, right-click on the blank default page and open Page Properties. In Page Properties, set a background color using the provided color palette, or load a background image by browsing to a file on your hard drive. Your image can be nearly any size, but the smaller the better. If the image isn't large enough to fill your screen, FrontPage will automatically tile it to fill the background area. We created our gradated background using one 25-pixel-high strip, which employed a color gradation near the left.

While you have Page Properties open, also enter a title for the Web page. This title will show up on the bar at the top of the user's browser.



Choose a color or image for the background of your site's main page.

6. Draw a Page-Layout Table

An HTML table is a structure that lets you create rows and columns to hold pictures and text, much like an Excel spreadsheet, although HTML tables tend to be irregular. An HTML table is a way of dividing the screen so that you can place different elements where you like. FrontPage's Draw Table tools make it easy to create custom tables using a pencil-and-eraser metaphor.



Divide the Web page into cells using the Draw Table tools.

To lay out your Web page using FrontPage, select Draw Table from the Table menu, and pencil in the table by drawing cells and subdividing them with the pencil tool. You'll also need to change border width from 1 to 0 in the Table Properties menu.

7. Add Text

To add a headline or greeting, draw a table cell on your page to hold text. Click inside the cell and type the text you want, such as "Welcome to my site." To make the text a suitable size and color,

you@yourdomain.com, Forever

One advantage of having your own domain name is that you can move from ISP to ISP, and your e-mail address will never change. That's because Web-hosting providers such as DellHost, Interland, Verio, and Web2010 offer POP e-mail along with their Web-hosting services, and most include multiple e-mail accounts. POP e-mail accounts let you send and receive mail using a client such as Outlook or Eudora, though most providers also offer browser access.

You can also get e-mail through domain registrars such as Network Solutions ***(www.networksolutions.com)***, Register.com ***(www.register.com)***, and others. A POP e-mail-only account ranges in price from free, as with Register.com (with registration of a domain name), to $60 a year with Network Solutions. Going through a registry for your e-mail account is also a good way to guarantee that you are the owner of your domain for future use.

If you already have an existing e-mail account you're happy with, registrars such as Mydomain.com ***(www.mydomain.com)*** will register your domain name and include free e-mail forwarding to your old account. A search on the Web for e-mail accounts will result in thousands of e-mail hosts offering you "branded" (your domain) e-mail, including well-known names such as Yahoo, at a low monthly or yearly fee.

click and highlight the text to change the font properties. With the font properties at the top of the screen, set individual font size, color, and alignment.

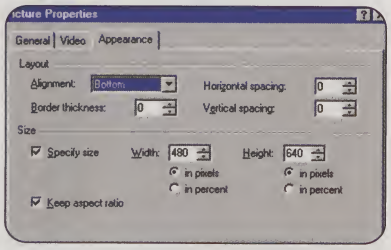
HTML text uses heading sizes of one to six (largest to smallest) or sizes one to seven (smallest to largest). You can also set size by +/- font sizes, which key off the default size. It can be a little confusing, so preview your page to be sure it's what you want.

Also, make sure to check the readability of your text against your chosen background image or color in a browser. Poor readability can kill a Web page.

Tip: FrontPage lets you use any font installed on your machine, but to view your site correctly, visitors to your site must have the same font installed. If you want to use a fancy font, consider using a graphics program to create the text on a transparent background, and then save the graphic as a bitmapped file.

8. Insert Images

Chances are you'll want images on even the most basic Web site. To insert an image using FrontPage, click inside the table cell where you want the picture and select File > Insert > Picture. The Insert Picture dialog box lets you browse for an image. To alter image size or alignment within FrontPage, right-click on the image, choose Picture Properties, and click on the Appearance tab.



Change image alignment and size using FrontPage's Picture Properties dialog.

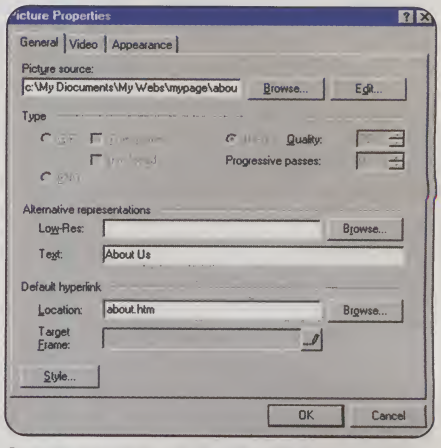
9. Provide Links

You can use links to connect to another location on the same page, another page of your site, other sites altogether, or even to bring up the user's e-mail client. It's easy to define either text or a graphic as a link.

To create a text link in FrontPage, highlight the text, then choose Insert > Hyperlink. The Create Hyperlink dialog lets you enter a URL or e-mail address.

We opted for images as a means to let our users link to our About, Contacts, and Gallery pages. To assign a link to a graphic or image, simply right-click on the image and invoke the Picture Properties dialog box. Then specify the link by entering the URL or browsing to it. To link to another page on your site, just enter the page name, for example "about.htm."

With image links, it's important to enter a short descriptive caption for the image, which will display when you pass the mouse over the image or when a visitor has turned images off in his or her browser. To enter this "alternative representation," simply type the caption into the Text field under Alternative Representations within the Picture Properties dialog.



Specify the target and alternative text for image links using the Picture Properties dialog.

Spinning Your Web

3 ESSENTIAL ZDNET DOWNLOADS

CuteFTP Pro
Transfer files securely over the Net.

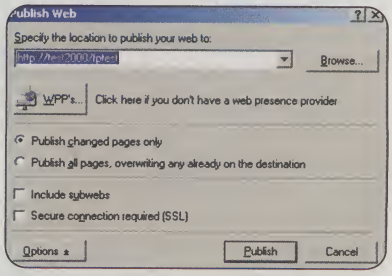
HomeSite
Edit HTML with a no-nonsense editor.

Linkbot Personal Edition
Analyze and optimize your Web pages.

ZDNet DOWNLOAD THEM NOW FROM
computershopper.zdnet.com/downloads

10. Publish It

When you've perfected your site, you simply need to publish it—that is, upload it to the Web-storage space you identified or purchased. You can upload manually using FTP clients such as WS_FTP from Ipswitch or CuteFTP from GlobalScape, but the easiest way if you use FrontPage or Dreamweaver is to have the program handle the task for you.



Copy your pages to your Web site using FrontPage's Publish option.

To publish from FrontPage, select File > Publish, enter your Web address, and, when asked, the username and password for your Web space. You can choose to upload the whole site or just elements that have changed, which can save a lot of time when you later begin to update the content.

Once you've uploaded your site, you can test it by visiting from any PC with a browser and an Internet connection. ▼

Online Guides

The help files in FrontPage or Dreamweaver may be all the reading material you need if you're simply trying to put together a basic Web site. Should you fall victim to the Web-developer bug, however, you'll find plenty of free online resources for additional information.

FrontPage users should explore Microsoft's page on using FrontPage 2000 ***(www.microsoft.com/frontpage/using.htm)***. Dreamweaver users will want to check out Macromedia Exchange ***(www.macromedia.com/exchange)***, which includes Dreamweaver tips, code samples, and downloads.

ZDNet Developer ***(www.zdnet.com/developer)***, CNET Builder.com ***(www.builder.com)***, the Web Developer's Virtual Library ***(www.stars.com)***, and Gettingstarted.net ***(www.gettingstarted.net)*** are good sources of info on Web development. (ZDNet is owned by CNET Networks, *Computer Shopper's* parent company.)

The Yale University Center for Advanced Instructional Media maintains an online design guide ***(info.med.yale.edu/caim/manual)*** that provides something for everybody, covering issues such as interface design, site design, page layout, graphics, and multimedia. Usable Web ***(www.usableweb.com)*** purports to provide more than 1,200 links to information about usability, and the AnyBrowser Pages ***(www.anybrowser.org)*** supply tips on how to design Web pages that work well with any browser.

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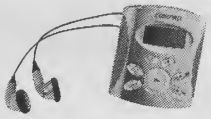
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- CD-RW drive[4] (for recording and storage)
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ALFRED POOR'S

computer cures

ALFRED POOR

ERASE THE PAST

Dear Alfred:

How can I cover my tracks after using my computer?

Pat Curran

It must be a sign of the times, because I'm asked this question often. You can erase the temporary files created by Web surfing and cover up other activities in a number of ways, none of them guaranteed.

When you delete a file, its space is marked as available. The data is still there, however, and you can easily recover it, until another file needing that space overwrites it. Even then, the residual data may still be detectable with the right equipment. That's why some "wipe" utilities repeatedly overwrite available space to obliterate the old information. This still doesn't guarantee the old data can't be recovered. Traces of the original magnetic fields that contained the data may still exist.

If you want to be absolutely certain no one can track your activities by looking at your hard drive, don't use it. Configure your system with a bootable, removable disk drive. When you turn off the system, take the drive with you or lock it somewhere safe.

THE FILE THAT ATE MY HARD DRIVE

Dear Alfred:

I found a file on my hard drive named WIN386.SWP that keeps growing incrementally. It's now up to 98MB. I don't know what it does. Can I get rid of it?

Richard D'Amico

You've found the Windows swap file, which Windows uses as virtual memory. When you load more programs and data than will fit into your computer's physical memory (the RAM), Windows will shunt some of the information to your hard drive. Windows treats the hard drive space as if it were memory, hence the term "virtual memory."

Windows also makes the file dynamic by default, so it can grow and shrink as needed. As the file size changes, however, the computer's performance can suffer, because the size changes can seriously fragment your drive. Fixing the size of the swap file cuts down on the work your system has to do and may improve performance.

Before you get started, defrag your drive. Then right-click on My Computer and select Properties. Click the Performance tab, the Virtual Memory button, and then the "Let me specify my own virtual memory settings" button. The amount you'll need depends on how much you do at one time, but try 100MB to 200MB to start. Make the amount you choose both the minimum and maximum setting. You'll see a warning message before you can finalize the changes. Click Yes, and Yes again, to restart your computer.

Although you may see a performance gain, you're better off adding more RAM, which is much faster than any hard drive.

TONE-DEAF MODEM

Dear Alfred:

When my dad tries to use his ISA modem card, he gets an error message reporting no dial tone. I plugged a phone into the line, and I can hear a dial tone. What could the problem be, and how can I fix it?

Laura Taylor

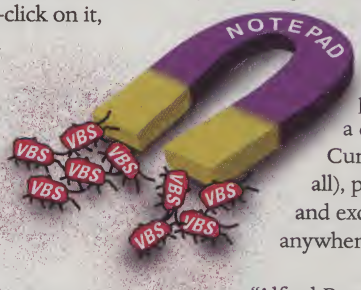
Try testing the modem using the Windows modem test. Choose Start > Settings > Control Panel, and select the Modems applet. Click the Diagnostics tab and make sure the modem is assigned to a COM port. If it isn't, it's installed incorrectly. If it is, highlight that line, and choose the More Info button. You should see a window filled with information about the modem's settings. If the modem doesn't respond to this test, it's probably damaged and needs to be replaced. ▼

tip of the month

STOP THOSE SCRIPTS!

This past spring sprouted more malicious e-mail viruses than tulips in a Dutch field. These little nasties tend to rely on Visual Basic scripts and bear such provocative names as SexyPicture. JPG.VBS. If Windows suppresses the extension of a recognizable file, as it does by default, people are lulled into thinking it's a JPEG graphic, and they double-click on it, thus launching the Visual Basic program and infecting their systems.

This month's tipster suggests a simple and effective way to stop those scripts.



Dear Alfred:

Most users rarely need to run Visual Basic, so here's an easy way to block viruses that rely on scripts. Using Notepad, create a text file called TEMP.VBS and save it to the Desktop. Hold down the Shift key, right-click on the new icon, select "Open with," and click Notepad. Finally, check "Always use this program to open this type of file." Now, if you try to open a potentially dangerous attachment, it opens in Notepad and doesn't run. If you need to run the script, save it to your computer, then drag and drop it onto Internet Explorer.

Thomas McGrath

That's an ideal tip: quick, easy, and free. Changing the association for the Visual Basic script file type prevents the scripts from executing, and by opening Notepad, you even get to see its contents.

Send us your favorite tip, and you could receive a tipster's prize package, including a coveted "Computer Cures" T-shirt (one size fits all), plus some other secret and exciting items you can't get anywhere else.

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ILLUSTRATION BY TODD BETTERLEY

(continued on page 206)

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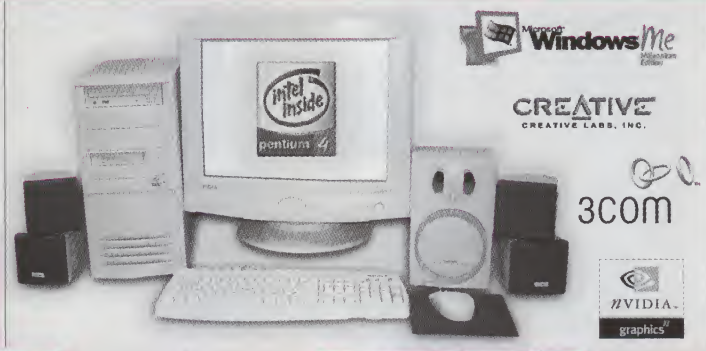
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- V.92 Zoom 56K Fax/Modem
- S B Live! Platinum 5.1 Digital Sound Card
- Enlight Tower or Desktop Case
- *19" 1280x1024* .25 SVGA Monitor
- Logitech Keyboard and Wheel Mouse
- Altec Lancing Digital Powercube 4-Speakers Set with Subwoofer
- Microsoft Windows ME or 98SE
- Corel Word Perfect Office-2000
- McAfee Virus Scan, CD Bundle,
- 72 Title PC Starter Kit
- 3 Years Parts, Lifetime Labor Warranty

nVIDIA

AMD Athlon™ 1.0GHz	$1799
AMD Athlon™ 1.3GHz	$1859
AMD Athlon™ 1.4GHz	$1959
1394 Fire Wire PCI Card	Add $39
512MB DDR RAM	Add $109
Creative VB Movie Maker	Add $179
Epson-980 USB Color Printer	Add $249
21".26 Monitor	Add $269

BEST BUY-3000

AMD Duron AS LOW AS $949

- 1.0GHz AMD Athlon™ Processor
- 128MB DDR Memory (UP to 1GB)
- 30.5GB 7200rpm Ultra ATA-100 HDD
- 12x/8x/32x Max Variable Speed CD-RW
- 12x Max Variable Speed DVD ROM Drive
- 1.44MB 3.5" FDD Drive
- 64MB NVIDIA GeForce MX 4xAGP Video
- V.92 Zoom 56K Fax/Modem
- Sound Pro-32 3D Sound Card
- 10/100BASE-T LAN Adapter
- Cambridge PC Works 2-Speakers Set w/Subwoofer
- Logitech Keyboard and Wheel Mouse
- Enlight Tower or Desktop Case
- Microsoft Windows ME or 98SE
- Corel Word Perfect Office-2000
- McAfee Virus Scan, CD Bundle
- 72 Title PC Starter Kit
- 3 Years Parts, Lifetime Labor Warranty

nVIDIA

AMD Athlon™ 1.0GHz	$949
AMD Athlon™ 1.3GHz	$999
AMD Athlon™ 1.4GHz	$1099
256MB DDR RAM	Add $69
60GB HDD	Add $79
USB Scanner	Add $79
17".27 Monitor	Add $159
Epson-777 USB Color Printer	Add $99

POWER STATION-6000

Intel Inside Pentium 4 AS LOW AS $1979

- 1.5GHz Pentium® - 4 Processor
- 256MB RDRAM Memory (Up to 1GB)
- 40GB 7200rpm Ultra ATA-100 HDD
- 64MB NVIDIA GeForce3 4xAGP Video
- 16x/10x/40x Max Variable Speed CD-RW
- 16x Max Variable Speed DVD ROM Drive
- SB Live ! 5.1 Digital Sound Card
- V.92 Zoom 56k Fax/Modem
- 10/100 Base-T Lan Adapter
- Enlight Tower or Desktop Case
- 19" 1600x1280 .25 SVGA Monitor
- Logitech Keyboard and Wheel Mouse
- Cambridge 5.1DTT2200 Desktop Theater 5-Speakers Set with Subwoofer
- McAFee VirusScan, CD Bundle,
- 72 Title PC Starter Kit
- Microsoft Windows ME or 98SE
- Corel Word Perfect Office-2000
- 3 Years Parts, Lifetime Labor Warranty

nVIDIA

Pentium® -4 1.4GHz	$1879
Pentium® -4 1.5GHz	$1979
Pentium® -4 1.7GHz	$2139
Microsoft Windows-2000	Add $79
512 MB RDRAM	Add $249
5.1DTT3500 Desktop Theater	Add $149
60.2GB 7200rpm HDD	Add $79
SB Live! 5.1 Platinum	Add $189

INTERNET STATION-5000

Intel Inside Pentium III AS LOW AS $1119

- 1.4GHz Pentium®-4 Processor
- 128MB RDRAM Memory (Up to 1GB)
- 30.5GB 7200 rpm Ultra ATA-100 HDD
- 12x Max Variable Speed DVD ROM Drive
- 12x/8x/32x Max Variable Speed CD-RW
- 64MBNVIDIA GeForce MX 4xAGP Video
- Sound Pro-32 3D Sound Card
- V.92 Zoom 56K Fax/Modem
- 10/100BASE-T Lan Adapter
- Enlight Tower or Desktop Case
- Cambridge PC Works 2-Speakers set w/Subwoofer
- Logitech Keyboard and Wheel Mouse
- Microsoft Windows ME or 98SE
- Corel Word Perfect Office-2000
- Norton PC Anywhere 9.2, CD Bundle
- 72 Title PC Starter Kit
- 3 Years Parts, Lifetime Labor Warranty

nVIDIA

Pentium® -4 1.4GHz	$1119
Pentium® -4 1.5GHz	$1219
Pentium® -4 1.7GHz	$1369
Norton Personal FireWall	Add $49
Creative WebCam Go	Add $99
Internet Phone Unit USB	Add $109
256MB RDRAM	Add $109
MS Office-2000 SBE	Add $189

ADAMANT'S BAREBONE SYSTEMS

Athlon™ DDR BAREBONE

Enlight ATX Case, 300W Power Supply
266MHz Bus Speed Motherboard
1.44MB 3.5" FDD
Built-in HDD/FDD IDE UDMA/100 Controller,
2-184 Pin DDR Memory Slots
1-4x AGP Slot, 5-PCI Slots
Logitech Keyboard and Wheel Mouse

AMD Duron™ 800MHz	$249
AMD Athlon™ 1.0GHz	$389
AMD Athlon™ 1.2GHz	$409
AMD Athlon™ 1.3GHz	$429
256MB DDR MEMORY	add $109
32MB DDR NVIDIA GeForce2	add $139

Athlon™ RAID/DDR BAREBONE

Enlight ATX Case, 300W Power Supply
266MHz Bus Speed Motherboard
1.44MB 3.5" FDD
Built-in HDD/FDD RAID/100 Controller,
1-4x AGP, 5-PCI Slots
Logitech Keyboard and Wheel Mouse

AMD Duron™800MHz	$309
AMD Athlon™1.0GHz	$389
AMD Athlon™1.2GHz	$409
AMD Athlon™1.3GHz	$429
256MB DDR Memory	add $109
64MB DDR NVIDIA GeForce3	add$399

P-III DUAL/RAID BAREBONE

Enlight ATX Case, 300W Power Supply
Dual Processor Capable Motherboard
133MHz Bus Speed Motherboard
1.44MB 3.5" FDD
Built-in HDD/FDD IDE RAID/100 Controller
1-4x AGP, 5-PCI Slots
Logitech Keyboard and Wheel Mouse

Pentium®-III 866MHz	$369
Dual Pentium®-III 866MHz	$549
Pentium®- III 933/1000MHz	$399/429
Dual Pentium® -III1000MHz	$689
256MB PC133 SDRAM Memory	add $79
64MB NVIDIA GeForce MX	add $89

P-4 CLASSIC BAREBONE

Enlight ATX Case, 300W Power Supply
400MHz FS Bus Speed Motherboard
1.44MB 3.5" FDD, Built-in HDD/FDD
IDE UDMA/100 Controller,
Logitech Keyboard and Wheel Mouse

Intel Inside Pentium 4

Pentium® - 4 1.3GHz	$449
Pentium® - 4 1.4GHz	$469
Pentium® - 4 1.5GHz	$535
Pentium® - 4 1.7GHz	$645
256MB RDRAM Memory	add $219
64MB DDR NVIDIA GeForce3	add$399

ADAMANT'S 6 TOP SELLING MOTHERBOARDS OF THE MONTH

SOYO SYK7ADA $117

ALI Chipset, 266MHz Bus Speed, 5-PCI, 1-4x AGP Slot, 3-184 pin Memory Slots, Award PnP BIOS, 2-USB Ports, Built-in IDE RAID, IDE UDMA/100 and I/O Controller, ATX Form Factor



AMD Duron™ 800MHz	$185
AMD Athlon™ 1.0GHz	$269
AMD Athlon™ 1.2GHz	$289
AMD Athlon™ 1.3GHz	$309

ASUS A7A266 $155

ALI Chipset, 266MHz Bus Speed, 5-PCI, 1-4x AGP Slot, 3-SDRAM, 2-DDR Memory Slots, Award PnP BIOS, 2-USB Ports, Build-in UDMA/100, IDE UDMA/100 and I/O Controller, ATX Form Factor.



AMD Duron™ 800MHz	$209
AMD Athlon™ 1.0GHz	$309
AMD Athlon™ 1.2GHz	$329
AMD Athlon™ 1.3GHz	$349

GIGABYTE 7DX $159

AMD Chipset, 266MHz Bus Speed, 5-PCI, 1-4xAGP Slot, 2-DDR Memory Slots, 2-USB Ports, Award PnP BIOS, Build-in UIDE RAID/ 100, IDE UDMA/100 and I/O Controller, ATX Form Factor.



AMD Duron™ 800MHz	$209
AMD Athlon™ 1.0GHz	$309
AMD Athlon™ 1.2GHz	$329
AMD Athlon™ 1.3GHz	$349

ECS P6VPA2 $88

VIA Apollo Pro 266 Chipset, 133MHz Bus Speed, 6-PCI, 1-CNR, 1-4xAGP Slot, 3-184 pin Memory Slots, Award PnP BIOS, 2-USB Ports, Build-in IDE UDMA/100 and I/O Controller, ATX Form Factor.



Intel®Celeron™ 700MHz	$159
Intel®Celeron™ 800MHz	$179
Pentium® III 800MHz	$255
Pentium® III 933MHz	$289
Pentium® III 1.0GHz	$329
256MB DDR Memory	add$109

ASUS P4T $179

i815E Chipset, 133MHz Bus Speed, 6-PCI, 2-AMR, 1-4xAGP Pro Slot, 3-168 pin Memory Slots, Award PnP BIOS, 2-USB Ports, Build-in IDE UDMA/100 and I/O Controller, ATX Form Factor.



Pentium®-4 1.3GHz	$379
Pentium®-4 1.4GHz	$399
Pentium®-4 1.5GHz	$469
Pentium®-4 1.7GHz	$579

INTEL D850GB $179

i850E Chipset, 400MHz FS Bus Speed, 5-PCI, 1-CNR, 1-4xAGP Slot, 4-RDRAM Memory Slots, Award PnP BIOS, 2-USB Ports, Built-in IDE UDMA/100 and I/O Controller, ATX Form Factor



Pentium®-4 1.3GHz	$379
Pentium®-4 1.4GHz	$399
Pentium®-4 1.5GHz	$469
Pentium®-4 1.7GHz	$579

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HEWLETT PACKARD

DESKJET		LASERJET			
640 C	77	1100 XI	349	5000	1388
812 C	85	1100 AXI	444	5000 N	1988
840 C	86	1200	377	8000 N	2488
842 C	90	1200 N	599	8000 DN	2988
350	259	2200 D	777	8150 N	2088
880 C	149	2200 DT	969	8150 N	2588
930 C	177	2200 DN1144		8150 DN	3088
895CXI	177	2200 DTN1444		4550	1888
950 C	199	3150 C	488	4550N	2488
960 CXI	288	4100	1088	4550DN	3688
970 CXI	335	4100 N	1577	8550	CALL
1220 CXI	444	4100 TN	1777	8550 N	CALL
1220 CPS	555	4100 DTN	2095	8550 DN	CALL

Canon BUBBLEJET

1000*	39
2000	44*
2100	55*
3000	98
3000	129
80*	169
85	269
55	319
6000	88*
S 400	99
S 450	129
S 600	198
S 800	277
1760	899
1760 E	1188

EPSON STYLUS

LX 300+	177
FX 880	233
FX 980	329
FX 1180	365
FX 2180	444
LQ 570 +	229
LQ 670	299
LQ 2080	355
LQ 870*	388
LQ 2180	518
DFX 5000	1088
DFX 8000*	1288
DFX 8500	2277
5700 I	355

STYLUS	
480	55
580	69
777	85
880	129
980	219
870	15
890	277
900	188
875 DC	159
875 DCS	178
1270 USB	233
1290	444
1520	399
2000 P	747
3000*	888
3000	2444

OKIDATA

184 T	212
320 T	313
321 T	435
520+	388
521+	488
390 T	319
391T	399
590+	444
591+	588
395+	988
395 C	1039
3410	1188*
4410	1988
4410 N	2888
6 W	177
8W	198
8 Z	219
10 E	299
14 E	325
14 EX	449
12 I	544
14 I	588
18	898
24	988
24 DX	1188
24 TN	1444
C 7200	2222
C 7400 N	2699

LEXMARK Optra

Z 12	55
Z 22	66
Z 32	69
Z 42	99
Z 52	129
2380+	288
2381+	333
2390+	333
2391	344
E 312	269
M 410	599
M 412	699
T 610	844
T 610 N	1133
T 612	999
T 612 N	1818
T 614	1188
T 614 N	1999
SE 3455	1729
T 616	1818
T 616 N	2188
W 810	2288
W 810 N	2544
C 710 C	2288
C 710 N	2188

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Panasonic

1150	118
2023	188
2130	209
3123	259
3124	318
3200	259
3196	288
3696	439
3626*	299
6500	222
8475	1988

XEROX

P 12	388
N 17 B	888
P 1202	439
N 2125 B	988
N 2125	1288
N 2825	1888
N 3225	2388
N 4025	2988
NC 60	1788

Tektronix PHASER

Z 750	CALL
Z 780	CALL

brother

WP 21 C	239
1240	259
1250	333
1270 N	444
1650	566
2060	888
2400 CEN	1988

RICOH

AP 1400	699
AP 2000	1188

MINOLTA

1100	377
16 L	599
20	869

QMS MAGICOLOR

2 CX	1588
2 EX	2488

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EPSON STYLUS COLOR

BEST BUY

1270*	$288
980	$219
870*	$133
875DC	$169
2000P	$747

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Black 4 for $99 Color 3 for $88
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PHOTO PAPER: 2 FOR $44 • USB KIT $49

SPECIAL

Canon BJC 85 PORTABLE COLOR

- 720x360 DPI
- 4.6 PPM Black
- 1.9 PPM Color
- Factory renewed
- 1 year warranty
- Optional Scaner Upgrade.....$99

TONER $39 3 for $ 98
Portable Kit $107
Scanner Interface $104

$198

WIDE FORMAT

EPSON STYLUS COLOR 3000

- 1440 x 720 DPI
- Up to 13 x 19 Capacity
- Up to 7 Pages Per Minute
- Factory Renewed • Factory Warranted
- Adobe PostScript Level 2 • USB Compatible
- Pantone Calibrated Colors
- 4 Individual Color Ink Cartridges

CARTRIDGES 4 for $199 RIP KIT: $349

$888

PHOTO QUALITY DESKJET

HEWLETT PACKARD Deskjet 970 CXI

- HP enhanced Color technology
- Up to 12 page/minute black, 10 page/minute color
- Two-sided printing
- Print cancel button
- low-ink warning
- Smudge-resistant results
- Factory Renued
- 1 Year Warranty
- 150-sheet paper tray
- Wide paper range: Envelopes, Transparencies...
- Network capable

895CXI $129
950C $159
930C $118
$239

BLACK INK..2 FOR $59 • COLOR INK..$59

COLOR INKJET

AFFORDABLE MID-LEVEL PRINTER

OKIDATA OkiPage 14i

- Easy-to-use
- Flexible features
- 600 DPI •14 PPM
- Handles 250 sheets • Up to 45 Fonts
- 1 Year warranty
- Up to 20,000 prints per month

OPTIONAL
500 sheet feeder, plus a 80 sheet 10 envelope feeder

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LOW COST LASER JET

HEWLETT PACKARD LaserJet 1100

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- 600 DPI
- 2MB RAM up to18MB
- Factory Renewed
- 1 year Warranty
- 125 Sheet tray

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CARTRIDGES 2 FOR $177

LOWEST COST LED/LASER

OKIDATA OKIPAGE 6W

- 6 Prints per Minute
- 600x600 DPI
- Windows Compatable
- Space saving footprint

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- up to 12 PPM,
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M 412 17ppm..... 688

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- 4MB RAM UP TO 16MB
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- 1 Year Warranty
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HEWLETT PACKARD LaserJet 2200 D

- 19 pages per minute
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- 1200x1200 DPI
- 1 Year Warranty

Optional:
Large capacety Sheet Feed Unit

NEW

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MEMORY 16MB... $149 / 32MB $249
ENVELOPE FEEDER $488 DUPLEX OPTION $588

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- 24 Pages Per Minute
- 1200DPI • 4MB RAM
- Up to 11x17"
- 100Mhz Risc Processor
- 1100 Sheet Capacety
- Factory Serviced
- Optional: Large Capacety Sheet Feed Unit, PostScript L2
- 1 Year Warranty

$1888

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ENVELOPE FEEDER $488 DUPLEX OPTION $588

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HEWLETT PACKARD LASER JET 5000

- 1200x1200DPI
- 16 PPM
- 11x17"
- Postscript
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OFFICE LASER

COLOR LASER

MINOLTA MagicColor

- Super-Fast RISC Processor
- True 600 x 600 DPI Ensures Crisp, Vibrant & Razor Sharp Colors
- 250 Sheet Tray
- Up to 12 PPM in Black
- Up to 3 PPM in Color
- 4MB Memory Up to 68MB
- Optional PostScript

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MEMORY 16MB.. $149 /32MB..$249

4 COLOR LASERJET

HEWLETT PACKARD LaserJet 4500

- 16 Page per minute Color
- 4 Page per minute Black
- 600x600 DPI
- Factory Renewed
- 32 MB Memory
- Postscript Handles Glossy Paper, Transparncies, Lables, Envelopes

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LaserJet 4500 N...$1988

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WORK-GROUP COLOR LASER

LEXMARK OPTRA C710

HIGH QUALITY, EASY TO USE

- 1200 x 1200 DPI
- 32MB standard up to 348MB
- Up to 16 PPM (Black) 3 PPM (color)
- 250 Sheet Drawer
- Cost effective
- Color duplex unit option
- Single element high yield print cartridge

C 710 N .....$1888 SPECIAL

$1699

HIGH-CAPACITY COLOR LASER

OKIDATA OKI C7200

- Single Pass Color® Digital Technology — prints on index card stock
- 12 PPM Color, 20 PPM B&W
- 600 x 1200 DPI
- Optional large capacity paper trays
- 400 MHz, 64-bit PowerPC processor
- 128 MB Available with
- 5 GB internal hard disk drive
- 2-sided printing capability

$2666

COLOR LASER

FAX & MULTIFUNCTION

brother

770	111
1270	129
P 2500	369
2750	344
4600	325
4750	425
7150	318
7160	388
7750	588
3750	749
5750	988
7300 C	277
7400 C	339
8300	366
8700	688
9200	444
9600	544

Canon

B 640*	118
C 530	144
C 755	177
C 560	269
L 6000	377
1100	749
2060	1088
4500	888
8500	1688
9000	1988
3170	CALL
3175	CALL

HEWLETT PACKARD OFFICEJET

910	199
920	222
630	188
710	249
720	288
T 45 XI	349
T 65 XI	444
R 40 XI	388
G 55XI	449
K 80 XI	469
G 85 XI	586
G 95	766
1100 AXI	425
3150 XI	488
3200	569

SHARP

UX 510	99
FO 1460	125
FO 2950	399*
UX 3500	988
FO 4500*	777
FO 4700	848
FO 5500	CALL
FO 5700	CALL
FO 5800	CALL
FO 6600	CALL

RICOH

1900 L	777
2000 L	1088
2900 L	CALL
3800 L	1788
5000 L	CALL

OKIDATA

5250	888
5400	1088
5800	1988
5900	CALL

EPSON

S 2500	244

Panafax

UF 585	888
UF 595	CALL
UF 885	1688
UF 895	CALL
DF 1100	CALL

XEROX

470 CX	239

COPIERS

SHARP

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AL 1000	399
AL 1010	675
AL 1041	688
AL 1200	644
AL 1250	988
AR 150	944
AR 151	CALL
AR 155	CALL
AR 160	1488
AR 200S	1788
SF 2014	CALL
SF 2414	1149
SF 2214	2269
SF 2216	CALL
SF 2020	1888
SF 2120	1988

HEWLETT PACKARD COLOR COPYJET

160 / 170	359
260 / 270	459
1170 CXI	444
R 40	469
G 85 XI	737
R 80	588

Canon

PC 420	188
PC 430	266
C 130 F	1388
C 180 II	1818

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- 240 cps maximum draft print speed
- Buffer: 4K (standard), 32K (optional)
- Envelopes: Number 6 and Number 10
- Copies: Up to original 3 non carbon copies

$118

RIBBONS - 2 FOR $22.22 - 6 FOR 49.49

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- 100 Sheet Tray
- Factory Renewed
- 1 Year Warranty
- 30 page Auto Document

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- 600 x 600 DPI
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- 2 MB Memory - up to 4MB
- 1 Year Warranty
- All In one Toner

OfficeJet 3200xi ...$499

$399

CARTRIDGES BULK SPECIAL: 4 for $399
MEMORY 8MB... $88 16MB...$149

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- 1MB Memory
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- Auto Doc. Feed
- Factory renewed

PRINTER: • 5 PPM • 600 D

SCANER: • up to 1200 DPI
• OCR Software

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OFFICEJET 700 ..... 199 710 ... 249
BLACK INK..2 FOR $49 COLOR INK..$59

LOW COST PERSONAL LASER FAX

brother 2750 IntelliFax

- 14.4 Modem
- 20 Page Auto Doc. Feed
- Dual Access
- 2MB Memory
- 200 sheet paper tray
- Fax Forwarding/Paging/ Remote Fax retrieval
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BUYING ADVISOR

by Asa Somers

A Perplexing Panel Purchase

Finding an affordable LCD for mainstream users is easy; finding one for demanding movie buffs is not.

WITH THE STOCK MARKET tanking and the economy sucking wind, now may not be the time to think about replacing your old desktop CRT monitor with a space-saving, cutting-edge LCD panel. Or is it? Prices of these formerly top-end luxury items are heading south, almost into affordable territory for many mainstream users.

Michael Tommey, a 43-year-old mail carrier for the University of Maryland, is thinking about taking the flat-panel plunge, replacing his old Compudyne monitor with a sleek new display. Saving desk space is one objective, but his primary interest is in watching DVDs, so moving-image quality is paramount. Unlike most folks, he's willing to spend a hefty sum to get the best 18- or 19-inch display on the market. He's budgeted around $2,500, but he doesn't want to make the investment if LCDs' infamous latency problems cause his DVDs to look less impressive on his new display than they would on a much cheaper CRT. (Because LCDs turn pixels on and off more slowly than traditional CRT guns, moving images can get blurry.)

Tommey's done his reading. In addition to excellent image and video quality, he requires that his new display support Digital Visual Interface (DVI). This next-generation technology lets your monitor accept high-quality digital signals from new, specially equipped graphics cards. Traditional cards convert your computer's digital images into an analog signal before sending them out to your display; DVI does away with this extra step, resulting in razor-sharp graphics.

Tommey also wants his monitor to feature a built-in USB hub, so he can connect a handful of peripherals right to the display rather than snaking cables under his desk to his PC. A generous native resolution would also be a plus.

Last month, we looked at five affordable 15-inch LCD panels ideal for mainstream users ready to replace their 17-inch CRTs. (See "Flattening Up," p. 102.) Of these, the **Samsung SyncMaster 570sTFT** edged out its competitors with its good image quality, fair price, and cool pivoting base that allows the screen to be positioned in landscape or portrait mode. The best price we found was through Buy.com—an attractive $582.95 plus shipping.



ViewSonic VP181 ViewPanel

Although its setup process and bundled software drew demerits in our roundup, the **Acer FP563** displayed a sharp, bright picture. We found the unit for sale at AccessMicro.com for $583 plus shipping. Both the Acer and Samsung models feature maximum native resolutions of 1,024 by 768 and are backed by three-year warranties. Also, both can be configured with internal USB hubs, but only as an option. Neither features DVI input.

If you bump up a size to a 17-inch model, you'll want to check out Samsung's economical and bright **SyncMaster 770TFT**. With a native resolution of 1,280 by 1,024, an optional USB hub, and a three-year warranty, it's a steal at $993.95 plus shipping from Buy.com.

None of these models matches the high-end demands of our Buying Advisee, however. In fact, to get exactly what Tommey wants, he's going to have to spend a considerable amount of money. Lucky for him, he's willing to do so.

Of the available options, the **ViewSonic VP181 ViewPanel** stands well in front of the crowd. With its 18.1-inch display, five USB ports, 1,280-by-1,024 native resolution, built-in speakers, and DVI support, it has everything Tommey requires. Best of all, it's renowned for its razor-sharp picture quality. We found it for $2,095.75 plus shipping at AllstarShop.com—a hefty price, but you get a spacious, space-saving display for the money.

The one thing we couldn't do for Tommey, however, was fully assuage his concern about video latency. We've watched enough DVD movies on high-end notebook screens to know full-motion video can look pretty amazing to the untrained eye if your graphics subsystem is powerful. On the desktop, with a heavy-duty 64MB graphics card and a DVI output, your system will look that much better.

CHALLENGE

USER PROFILE

Michael Tommey, 43, a mail carrier from College Park, Md.

COMPUTING NEEDS

A high-end 18- or 19-inch stand-alone LCD panel to replace his 17-inch CRT. An avid movie fan, Tommey plans to use his new display as a dedicated movie screen. He needs DVI support, a built-in USB hub, killer image quality, and good full-motion video response. Unfortunately, the technology's limitations may prevent even the best display on the market from matching the video performance of a top-of-the-line CRT.

SOLUTION

THE ADVISOR'S CHOICE

Although we looked at a number of affordable options for mainstream users, we found only one model that met Tommey's stringent demands—the **ViewSonic VP181 ViewPanel**, a major investment at $2,095.75 from AllstarShop.com. It's got all the features and the razor-sharp image quality Tommey needs, but it's still an LCD panel, so latency issues may convince him to stick with traditional CRT technology for now.

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But if you're ultrapicky about the fluidity of your movies or action games, you may still be more satisfied with a CRT, at least for now.

If you want help making a smart buying decision, e-mail the Buying Advisor at ***buying_advisor@zdnet.com.***

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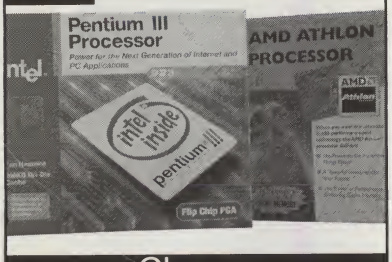
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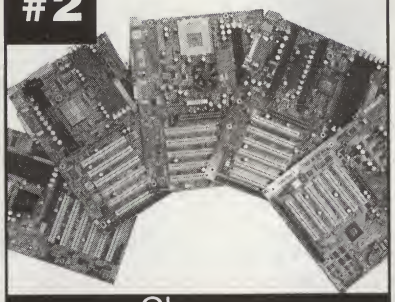
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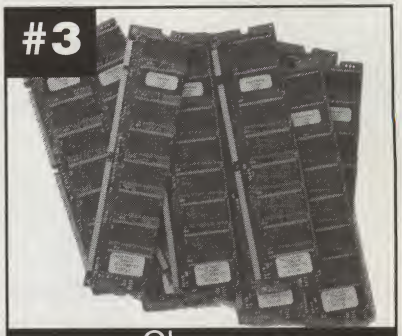
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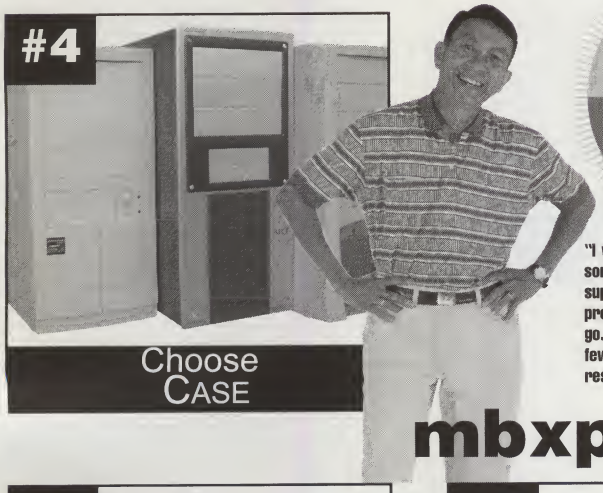
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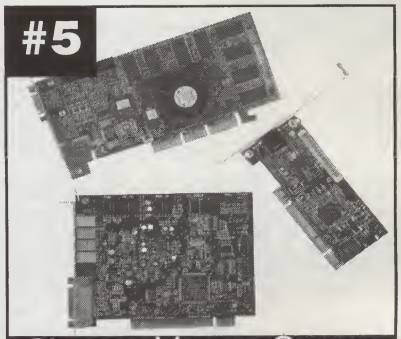


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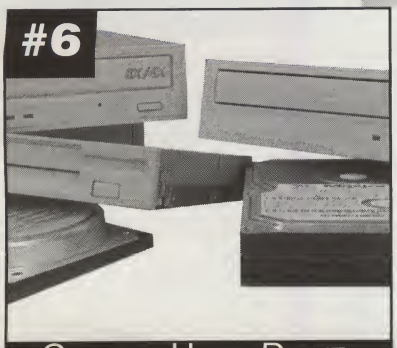


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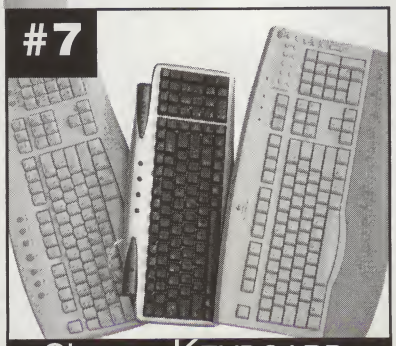
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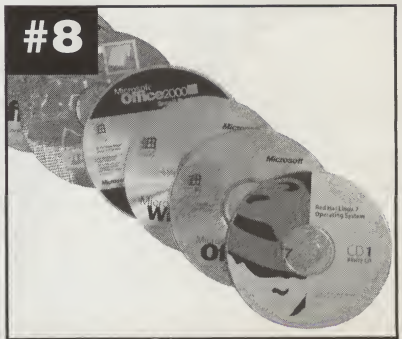
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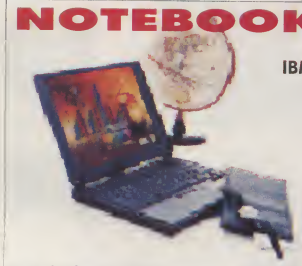
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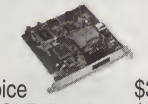
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30.0GB	2MB	7200	QMP30000AS	$125
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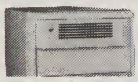
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81.9GB	2MB	5400	M98196H8	$235
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40.0GB	2MB	5400	X01FWRA040	$255
80.0GB	2MB	5400	X01FWRA080	$355

Hitachi

(dirtcheapdrives.com/hit)

ULTRA 160 SCSI				
18.4GB	4MB	10,000	DK32CJ-18MW	$239
36.9GB	4MB	10,000	DK32CJ-36MW	$445
73.9GB	4MB	10,000	DK31CJ-72MW	$829
ULTRA SCA				
18.4GB	4MB	10,000	DK32CJ-18MC	$239
36.9GB	4MB	10,000	DK32CJ-36MC	$445
73.9GB	4MB	10,000	DK31CJ-72MC	$829



Keep your hard drive running cool and extend the life of your drive. Twin cooling fans are controlled by heat sensitive circuitry. (VHDFAN) **$19**

HARD DRIVES

Seagate

(dirtcheapdrives.com/sea)

Capacity	Cache	RPM	Item Number	Price
ULTRA ATA/100 IDE				
20.4GB	512K	5400	ST320413A	$85
20.4GB	2MB	7200	ST320414A	$102
30.6GB	512K	5400	ST330621A	$98
30.6GB	2MB	7200	ST330620A	$125
40.8GB	512K	5400	ST340823A	$115
40.8GB	2MB	7200	ST340824A	$145
ULTRA SCSI				
18.4GB	2MB	7200	ST318417N	$229
ULTRA Wide SCSI				
18.4GB	2MB	7200	ST318417W	$229
Ultra 160 SCSI (up to 160MB/sec)				
9.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST39205LW	$190
18.4GB	2MB	7200	ST318437LW	$219
18.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST318405LW	$245
18.4GB	4MB	15,000	ST318451LW	$339
36.7GB	2MB	7200	ST336737LW	$389
36.7GB	4MB	10,000	ST336705LW	$449
73.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST373405LW	$859
73.4GB	16MB	10,000	ST373405LWV	$885
181.6GB	4MB	7200	ST1181677LW	$1675
181.6GB	16MB	7200	ST1181677LWV	$1699
SCA & SCA 160 (Single Connector Attachment)				
9.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST39205LC	$190
18.4GB	2MB	7200	ST318437LC	$219
18.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST318405LC	$245
18.4GB	4MB	15,000	ST318451LC	$339
36.7GB	2MB	7200	ST336737LC	$389
36.7GB	4MB	10,000	ST336705LC	$449
73.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST373405LC	$859
73.4GB	16MB	10,000	ST373405LCV	$885
181.6GB	4MB	7200	ST1181677LC	$1675
181.6GB	16MB	7200	ST1181677LCV	$1699
FC-AL Fibre Channel 160 (Arbitrated Loop)				
36.7GB	4MB	10,000	ST336705FC	$449
73.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST373405FC	$859
73.4GB	16MB	10,000	ST373405FCV	$885

WESTERN DIGITAL

(dirtcheapdrives.com/wd)

ULTRA ATA-100 IDE				
10.0GB	2MB	5400	WD100EB	$79
20.0GB	2MB	5400	WD200EB	$85
20.0GB	2MB	7200	WD200BB	$95
30.0GB	2MB	5400	WD300AB	$99
30.0GB	2MB	7200	WD300BB	$115
40.0GB	2MB	5400	WD400AB	$110
40.0GB	2MB	7200	WD400BB	$135
60.0GB	2MB	5400	WD600AB	$165
60.0GB	2MB	7200	WD600BB	$199
80.0GB	2MB	5400	WD800AB	$209
80.0GB	2MB	7200	WD800BB	$285
1394 External Hard Drive Kits				
30.0GB	2MB	5400	WD300A001RN	$215
40.0GB	2MB	5400	WD450A001RN	$249
1394 Cards from Western Digital!				
Type II CardBus Card			WDAD003RNW	$91
PCI Card			WDAD002RNW	$45

FUJITSU

(dirtcheapdrives.com/fuj)

ULTRA ATA-100 IDE				
20.4GB	512K	5400	MPG3204AT	$95
30.7GB	512K	5400	MPG3307AT	$106
40.9GB	512K	5400	MPG3409AT	$119

MicroSolutions

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32X CD-ROM ask about sound!	(BACKPAC32X)	$145
20GB Hard Drive also for USB	(154015)	$219
20GB Hard Drive also for PC card	(153015)	$225
4x4x24 CD Rewritable	(BACKPAC4X24)	$219

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10.0GB	9.5mm	4200	MK1017GAP	$97
15.0GB	9.5mm	4200	MK1517GAP	$114
20.0GB	9.5mm	4200	MK2016MAP	$139
30.0GB	9.5mm	4200	MK3017GAP	$259
IBM Hard Drives				
5.0GB	9.5mm	4200	07N4391	$89
10.0GB	9.5mm	4200	07N4390	$97
20.0GB	9.5mm	4200	07N4388	$129
32.0GB	12.5mm	5411	07N4138	$415
HITACHI Hard Drives				
6.0GB	9.5mm	4200	DK23BA60	$98
10.0GB	9.5mm	4200	DK23BA10	$105
20.0GB	9.5mm	4200	DK23BA20	$145

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Prices incl. 1 free disk. Extra Disks (ORBDISK) $29
ORB USB (ORBUSB) $174
Int. SCSI (ORBSCSI) / Ext. SCSI (ORBSCSIX) $141/$159

OPTICAL DRIVES

MAXOPTIX 5.2GB

2.6GB, 1.3GB, 1GB, 650MB compatible, SCSI-2, 4MB buffer
Int. (T6-5200)/Ext. our case (T6-5200X) $1379/$1459
Maxoptix 5.2 Media 1-4/5-9/10+ $83/$80/$77

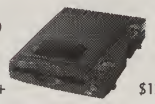
SONY 5.2GB

2.6GB, 1.3GB, 650MB r/w compatible, SCSI-2, 4MB buffer
Int. (SMOF551)/Ext. our case (SMOF551X) $1379/$1459
Sony 5.2 Media 1-4/5-9/10+ (SMAX5.2) $83/$80/$77

ZIP & JAZ DRIVES

100MB ZIP

iomega



Internal IDE for PC (ZIP100A) $59
Internal IDE for PC 5 pack (ZIP100A-5) $279
Internal IDE for PC 10 pack (ZIP100A-10) $545
External for PC parallel port (PPZIP100) $79
External for USB port (ZIP100USB) $79
100MB disks (ZIP100C) Qty 2-9/Qty 10+ $12/$10

250MB ZIP



External USB for PC or Mac (ZIP250USB) $139
External SCSI for PC or Mac (ZIP250) $109
Internal IDE (ZIP250A) $109
External for PC parallel port (PPZIP250) $109
250MB disks (ZIP250C) QTY 2-9/QTY 10+ $17/$15

2 GIG JAZ



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- 10ms read, 12ms write, 5394rpm

Internal SCSI (JAZ2I) $249
External SCSI (JAZ2X) $319
1GB Disks (JAZC1GIGPC) Qty 2-4/5-9/10+ $80/$77/$75
2GB Disks (JAZC2GIGPC) Qty 2-4/5-9/10+ $85/$80/$77

JAZ ACCESSORIES
PCI Controller (JAZJETPCI) $89
PCMCIA Type II Adapter (JAZPCMCIA) $105
Parallel Adapter Jaz Traveller (JAZPARALLEL) $39

1394/FIREWIRE

1394 PCMCIA CardBus (70HTL00040)	**$85**
1394 USB/PCI Board (70HTL00060)	**$115**
1394 Hub (70HTL00030)	**$85**
1394 Repeater and Cables (70HTL00020)	**$45**
15 Ft. Cable: 6pin to 4pin/6pin to 6pin (70CAB13943)/(70CAB13942)	**$19/$19**



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40.8GB	ST340823A	$115

ULTRA 160 SCSI, 4MB, 10,000rpm

9.2GB	ST39205LW	$190
18.4GB	ST318405LW	$245
36.7GB	ST336705LW	$449
73.4GB	ST373405LW	$859

ULTRA 160 SCSI, 4MB, 15,000rpm

18.4GB	ST318451LW	$339



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10GB	QML10000LD	$78
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30GB	QML30000LD	$102
40GB	QML40000LD	$115

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30GB	QMP30000AS	$125
40GB	QMP40000AS	$145
60GB	QMP60000AS	$205

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SONY

We include 5.25" mounting hardware with Sony DAT!

4-8Gig	DDS-2 DAT, 90MB/min, SDT7000AI	$419	$10 (DAT120M)
12-24Gig	DDS-3 DAT, 144MB/min, SDT9000AI	$565	$20 (DAT125M)
20-40Gig	DDS-4 DAT, 288MB/min, SDT11000AI	$819	$33 (DAT150M)
160-320Gig	DDS-4 DATloader, 840MB/min, TSL-S11000	$2745	$33 (DAT150M)

SONY AIT Tape Drives

25-50GB	AIT Internal	(SDX-300CI)	**$1189**
25-50GB	AIT External	(SDX-S300C)	**$1342**
50-100GB	AIT-2 Internal	(SDX-500CI)	**$2699**
50-100GB	AIT-2 External	(SDX-S500C)	**$2959**
35GB AIT Media	(SDX135C) 1-4/5/9/10-49/50+		**$85/$83/$81/$79**
50GB AIT Media	(SDX250C) 1-4/5/9/10-49/50+		**$110/$106/$102/$98**

Quantum

Get a DLT4 tape for only $65 when purchased with drive

20-40Gig	DLT,180MB/min, DLT4000	$1035	$65 (DLT4)
	External, our case, DLT4000X	$1135	$65 (DLT4)
	External, Quantum case, DLT4000QX	$1359	$65 (DLT4)
40-80Gig	DLT, 600MB/min,DLT8000	$2945	$65 (DLT4)
	External, our case, DLT8000X	$3045	$65 (DLT4)
	External, Quantum case, DLT8000QX	**$3155**	$65 (DLT4)

DLT MEDIA SALE	**1-4**	**5-9**	**10-49**	**50+**
DLTIII 10-20GB (DLT3)	$34	$33	$32	$31
DLTIII XT 15-30GB (DLT3XT)	$37	$36	$35	$34
DLTIV 20-40GB (DLT4)	$73	$70	$67	$65
DLT Cleaning tape (DLTCLEAN)	$39	$37	$35	$33

Seagate

- Includes 1 FREE tape, cable, manual & Win/NTWS backup software

Minicartridge

ATAPI (IDE)	*Int.*	*Extra Tapes*
TR4 4-8Gig (STT28000A)	**$185**	**$25**(TR4)
TR5 10-20Gig (STT220000A)	**$249**	**$35**(TR5)

SCSI	*Int.*	*Ext.*	*Extra Tapes*
TR4 4-8Gig (STT28000N)	**$219**	**$279**	**$25**(TR4)
SCSI RCVT Includes NT & Netware server software only. Features hardware data compression.			
TR4 4-8Gig (STT28000NC)	**$349**	**$409**	**$25**(TR4)
TR5 10-20Gig (STT220000N)	**$449**	**$509**	**$35**(TR5)

Exabyte



Internals

7-14Gig	8mm, 120MB/min, ELIANT820	$1145	$10 (DAT160M8MM)
14-28Gig	8mm, 420MB/min, Mammoth-LT	$1219	$10 (DAT160M8MM)
20-40Gig	8mm, 360MB/min, EXB8900	$1909	$69 (AME170)
140-280Gig	8mm, 180MB/min, EZ17SWK	$4395	$10 (DAT160M8MM)

Externals

7-14Gig	8mm, 120MB/min, ELIANT820X	$1205	$10 (DAT160M8MM)
14-28Gig	8mm, 420MB/min, Mammoth-LT	$1279	$10 (DAT160M8MM)
20-40Gig	8mm, 360MB/min, EXB8900X	$1969	$69 (AME170)

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We include 5.25" mounting hardware with HP DAT!

4-8Gig	DDS-2, 60MB/min, C1599AI	$519	$10 (DAT120M)
12-24Gig	DDS-3, 120MB/min, C1554AI	$695	$20 (DAT125M)
72-144Gig	DDS-3, 120MB/min, C5648A	$1649	$20 (DAT125M)

Seagate

We include 5.25" mounting hardware with Seagate DAT!

2-4Gig	DAT-DC 66MB/min,STD24000N	$399	$6 (DAT90M)
4Gig	Mini 30MB/min,STT28000N	$219	$25 (TR4)
4-8Gig	Mini 60MB/min,STT28000NC	$349	$25 (TR4)
4-8Gig	DDS-2 DAT 66MB/min, STD28000N	$495	$10 (DAT120M)
10-20Gig	Mini 100MB/min,STT2200BARE	$265	$35 (TR5)
12-24Gig	DDS-3 DAT 132MB/min, STD224000N	$659	$10 (DAT120M)
20-40Gig	DDS-4 DAT 330MB/min, STD2401LW	$939	$27 (DAT150M)
240Gig	DDS-4 DAT autoloader, STDL42401LW	$2245	$27 (DAT150M)

We have a variety of power backup solutions. Our customer service reps are glad to assist you. Call or visit our website under the "Power Backups" listing.

DRIVE CASES

DRIVE CASE:	**SCSI TYPE: Ultra**	**UltraWide**	**Ultra 160**
3.5" w/ closed, 1", & 1.6" open face plates	**$49** (3.5CASEC)	**$59** (3.5CASECW)	**$69*** (3.5CASE160)
5.25" w/ closed, 1", 1.6", & CD face plates	**$49** (HHCASET)	**$59** (HHCASETW)	**$75*** (HHCASET160)
Holds 2 half height or 1 full height drive.	**$69** (FHCASE)	**$95** (FHCASEW)	**$109*** (FHCASE160)
Dual 3.5" drive model Takes two 3.5" drives	**$69** (DUAL3.5CASE)	**$89** (DUAL3.5CW)	**$99*** (DUAL3.5C160)
Holds 4 half height or 2 full height drives.	**$99** (DUALCASET)	**$129** (DUALCASETW)	**$139*** (DUALCASE160)
Holds 8 half height or 4 full height drives.	**$175** (TOWERCASET)	**$219** (TOWERCASETW)	**$239*** (TOWERCSE160)
Holds 14 half height or 6 full height drives.	**$385** (14BAYCASE)	**$479** (14BAYCASEFW)	**$495*** (14BAYCSE160)
Holds 18 half height or 8 full height drives.	**$585** (18BAYCASE)	**$689** (18BAYCASEFW)	**$699*** (18BAYCSE160)
Holds 20 half height or 10 full height drives.	**$619** (20BAYCASE)	**$739** (20BAYCASEFW)	**$755*** (20BAYCSE160)

** Also compatible with Ultra-2 SCSI*

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Seagate External USB 10GB-20GB Tape Drive #STT6201U-R $339

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Veritas (formerly Seagate) Backup Exec

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Netware single server & unlimited users (SBENWSE)	$329

NovaStor

NovaWorks CD contains backup software for DOS, Win 3.1, Windows 95, Win NT, and OS/2. Compatible with SCSI, IDE, and QIC drives (19801)	$49
NovaNet 8 for Windows	
SE for Windows NT/2000 (79210)	$295
Single Server for NT/2000 (79230)	$395
Unlimited for NT/2000 (79250)	$659
NovaNet 8 for NetWare	
SE (79310)	$285
Single Server for NetWare 25 User (79320)	$315
Single Server for NetWare 1000 User (79330)	$395
Unlimited for NetWare 25 User (79340)	$555

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CONTROLLERS

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		BARE	/ KIT
1890600	Fireconnect 4300 KIT PCI 1394-FireWire Adapter		$72
1914500	Digital Video Editing Kit AFW4300DVKIT		$75
A2906EKIT	PCI 32 Bit SCSI (For PC or Mac)		$55
T1350	EPP Parallel to SCSI Adapter		$69
T1460D2KIT	PCMCIA type 2, 3, or 4 to SCSI		$119
T1480A	CardBus to Ultra SCSI		$169
AAA133U2	PCI Ultra-2 RAID 3 channel		$695
ARO1130U2	RAIDPORT II Ultra-2 RAID		$269
A19160	Ultra 160 SCSI	$149	$219
A29160	Ultra 160 SCSI 64 bit	$209	$279
A39160	Ultra 160 SCSI 64 bit PCI, 2 channel		$339
A29160N	Ultra 160 SCSI 32 bit PCI		$295
A29160LP	Ultra 160 SCSI 64 bit MD2 low profile	$219	$299
APD29160MAC	Ultra 160 SCSI controller for Macintosh		$279
APD39160MAC	Ultra 160 SCSI controller for Macintosh	FAST!	$395
AAAUDMAKIT	PCI 4 channel UDMA/66 RAID		$375
The Adaptec RAID Lineup			
RAID2100S	Ultra 160 SCSI RAID w/32MB SDRAM		$429
RAID3200S	As 2100S with 2 channels, 64 bit		$709
RAID3400S	As 2100S with 4 channels, 64 bit		$979
ABM100KIT	Battery backed module for 3000S series RAID controllers		$229
AMM232KIT	32MB ECC SO-DIMM for 3000S series RAID controllers		$165
AMM264KIT	64MB ECC SO-DIMM for 3000S series RAID controllers		$279

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DC315U	32 Bit PCI SCSI controller - no bios	$25
DC395U	32 Bit PCI Ultra SCSI controller	$49
DC390F	32 Bit PCI Ultra Wide SCSI controller	$75
DC390U2	32 Bit PCI Ultra-2 SCSI controller	$129
DC390U2W	32 Bit PCI Ultra-2 SCSI Dual Channel controller	$139
DC390U3W	1 Ultra 160 Channel & 1 Ultra Wide channel kit	$189

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ULTRA100	PCI, Supports Ultra ATA-100 drives	$37
FASTTRAK66	PCI, Supports Ultra ATA-66 IDE drives	$63
FASTTRAK100	PCI, Supports ULTRA ATA-100 RAID 0+1	$89
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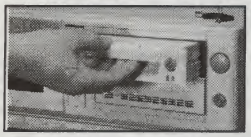
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Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWCART)	$61	N/A
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IDE 66 (DPAFRAME66)	$44	
Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWFRAMEA)	$51	

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40X	Plextor	PX40TS (TRAY)	85	512K	$87	$147
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40X	Plextor	PX40TSUW	85	512K	$99	$189
Pioneer 24x 6 Disk external CD changer (DRM6324X)						$407
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40X	Teac	CD540E	85	128K		$43
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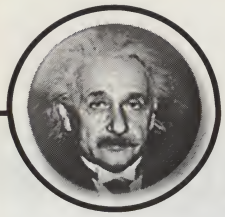
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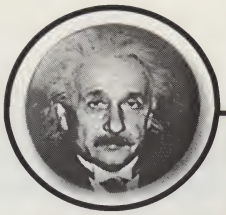
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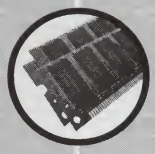
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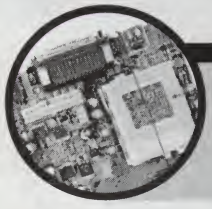
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ASA7PRO	SOCKET A	5		1+AMR	3/168	ATX	$122
ASA7V133	SOCKET A	4		1+AMR	3/168	ATX	$134
ASA7V-WOA	SOCKET A	5		1+AMR	3/168	ATX	$142
ASCUSL2	SOCKET 370	6	2CNR	1	3/168	ATX	$142
ASA7A266	SOCKET A	4		1+AMR	2DDR/168	ATX	$147
ASCUV4X-D	DUAL 370	5		1	4/168	ATX	$156
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ASA7M266	SOCKET A	4		1+AMR	2/DDR	ATX	$192
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MICK7TPRO-100	SOCKET A	6		1	3/168	ATX	$127
MICP266MSTR-R	SOCKET 370	5		1+CNR	3DDR/168	ATX	$139
MICK7T266PRO	SOCKET A	5		1+CNR	3/DDR	ATX	$142
MICK7MASTER	SOCKET A	5		1+CNR	2/DDR	ATX	$159
MIC850PRO	P4	5		1+CNR	4/RIMM	ATX	$172
MICK7TMASTER	SOCKET A	6		1+CNR	4/168	ATX	$247
MICK7MASTER-S	SOCKET A	5		1+CNR	2/DDR	ATX	$287

GIGABYTE www.giga-byte.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	STYLE	PRICE
GBGA-6VXE7+	SOCKET 370	5	2	1	3/168	ATX	$79
GBGA-6VXE+	SLOT 1	5	2	1	3/168	ATX	$82
GBGA-7IXE4	SOCKET A	5	2	1	3/168	ATX	$83
GBGA-7IXE	SLOT A	5	2	1	3/168	ATX	$84
GBGA-6VA7+	SOCKET 370	4	2	1	3/168	AT	$84
GBGA-6VX7-4X	SOCKET 370	5	1	1	3/168	ATX	$91
GBGA-7ZM	SOCKET A	3	AMR	1	3/168	MATX	$98
GBGA-7ZX-1	SOCKET A	5	1	1+AMR	3/168	ATX	$109
GBGA-7ZX	SOCKET A	5	1	1+AMR	3/168	ATX	$117
GBGA-7ZXR	SOCKET A	5	1	1+AMR	3/168	ATX	$127
GBGA-6VXD7	DUAL 370	5	1	1	4/168	ATX	$154
GBGA-7DX	SOCKET A	5		1+AMR	2DDR	ATX	$162
GBGA-7DXC	SOCKET A	5	AMR	1	2DDR	ATX	$174
GBGA-8TX	P4	5	CNR	1	4/RIMM	ATX	$192

PROCESSORS

ALL CPU'S HAVE A 1 YEAR WARRANTY WHEN PURCHASED WITH A CPU FAN.

intel www.intel.com

INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA	566MHZ	128K	$52
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA	600MHZ	128K	$54
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA	633MHZ	128K	$58
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA	667MHZ	128K	$62
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA	700MHZ	128K	$64
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA	733MHZ	128K	$70
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA	766MHZ	128K	$72
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA	800MHZ	128K	$88
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA	850MHZ	128K	$107
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	667MHZ	256K FCPGA	$107
INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS	700MHZ	256K FCPGA	$107
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	733MHZ	256K FCPGA	$107
INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS	750MHZ	256K FCPGA	$110
INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS	800MHZ	256K FCPGA	$152
INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS	850MHZ	256K FCPGA	$157
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	800MHZ	256K FCPGA	$162
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	866MHZ	256K FCPGA	$167
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	933MHZ	256K FCPGA	$174
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	1000MHZ	256K FCPGA	$202
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	667MHZ	256K SECC	$89
INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS	700MHZ	256K SECC	$103
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	733MHZ	256K SECC	$104
INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS	750MHZ	256K SECC	$105
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	800MHZ	256K SECC	$157
INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS	800MHZ	256K SECC	$163
INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS	850MHZ	256K SECC	$170
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	866MHZ	256K SECC	$176
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	933MHZ	256K SECC	$201
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	1000MHZ	256K SECC	$252
INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS	1000MHZ	256K SECC	$262
INTEL	PENTIUM 4 400MHZ BUS	1300MHZ	256K SOCKET423	$192
INTEL	PENTIUM 4 400MHZ BUS	1400MHZ	256K SOCKET423	$229
INTEL	PENTIUM 4 400MHZ BUS	1500MHZ	256K SOCKET423	$299
INTEL	PENTIUM 4 400MHZ BUS	1700MHZ	256K SOCKET423	$369

AMD www.amd.com

AMD	K6 II W/3D NOW	100 MHZ BUS	P450MHZ	$29
AMD	K6 II W/3D NOW	100 MHZ BUS	P500MZ	$39
AMD	K6 III W/3D NOW	95MHZ BUS	P380MHZ	$42
AMD	K6 II W/3D NOW	100 MHZ BUS	P550MHZ	$42
AMD	K6 III W/3D NOW	100MHZ BUS	P400MHZ	$62
AMD	DURON	200 MHZ BUS	P650MHZ	$42
AMD	DURON	200 MHZ BUS	P700MHZ	$42
AMD	DURON	200 MHZ BUS	P750MHZ	$42
AMD	DURON	200 MHZ BUS	P800MHZ	$54
AMD	DURON	200 MHZ BUS	P850MHZ	$66
AMD	DURON	200 MHZ BUS	P900MHZ	$77
AMD	K7 SLOT A TBIRD	200 MHZ BUS	P850MHZ	$89
AMD	K7 SLOT A TBIRD	200 MHZ BUS	P900MHZ	$99
AMD	K7 SLOT A TBIRD	200 MHZ BUS	P950MHZ	$179
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	200 MHZ BUS	P800MHZ	$79
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	200 MHZ BUS	P850MHZ	$89
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	200 MHZ BUS	P900MHZ	$102
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	200 MHZ BUS	P950MHZ	$126
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	200 MHZ BUS	P1000MHZ	$137
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	266 MHZ BUS	P1000MHZ	$137
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	200 MHZ BUS	P1100MHZ	$149
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	266 MHZ BUS	P1133MHZ	$149
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	200 MHZ BUS	P1200MHZ	$157
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	266 MHZ BUS	P1200MHZ	$157
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	200 MHZ BUS	P1300MHZ	$174
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	266 MHZ BUS	P1333MHZ	$174
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	200 MHZ BUS	P1400MHZ	$269

NETWORKING

3Com www.3com.com

3C905BTXNM	ETHERNET RJ45 10/100BT NO REMOTE WAKE PCI	$41
3C905CTXM	ETHERNET RJ45 10/100BT W/REMOTE WAKE PCI	$43
3C905CX-TXNM	ETHERNET RJ45 10/100XL NO REMOTE WAKE PCI	$42
3C905CX-TXM	ETHERNET RJ45 10/100XL W/REMOTE WAKE PCI	$44
3C900B-COMBO	ETHERNET RJ45/COAX/10BT/BNC/AUI PCI	$61

EDIMAX NETWORKING PRODUCTS www.edimax.com

EDEN2000PXA	ETHERNET RJ45/10BT/BNC/AUI ISA FULL DUPLEX	$17
EDEN5200PXA	ETHERNET RJ45/10BT/BNC/AUI PCI FULL DUPLEX	$18
EDEN9130	ETHERNET RJ45 10/100 PCI	$24
EDER5394SR	NETWORK HUB 5 PORT 10BASE-T	$35

MEMORY

72-PIN EDO

16MB	4X32 EDO	60NS	$15
32MB	8X32 EDO	60NS	$34
64MB	16X32 EDO	60NS	$35
128MB	32X32 EDO	60NS	$109

168-PIN LONG DIMMS EDO

64MB	8X64	60NS 3.3VOLT	$81
64MB	8X72 (unbuffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$69
64MB	8X72 (buffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$79
128MB	16X64	60NS 3.3VOLT	$157
128MB	16X72 (unbuffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$137
128MB	16X72 (buffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$159
256MB	32X72 (buffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$247

168-PIN LONG DIMMS SDRAM (66MHz)

32MB	4X64	10NS	$12
64MB	8X64	10NS	$22
128MB	16X64	10NS	$39

168-PIN SDRAM PC100/133/150

32MB	4X64	8NS	$10
64MB	8X64	8NS	$16
64MB PC133	8X64	7.5NS	$17
64MB	8X72	8NS	$20
128MB	16X64	8NS	$26
128MB PC133	16X64	7.5NS	$29
128MB PC150	16X64	7NS	$32
128MB	16X72	8NS	$34
128MB PC133	16X72	7.5NS	$36
256MB	32X64	8NS	$57
256MB PC133	32X64	7.5NS	$59
256MB PC150	32X64	7NS	$63
256MB	32X72	8NS	$64
256MB PC133	32X72	7.5NS	$66
512MB	64X72	8NS	$154
512MB PC133	64X64	7.5NS	$164
512MB PC133	64X72	7.5NS	$174
1024MB PC133	128X72	7.5NS	$629

DDR RAM PC1600/2100

128MB	16X64	200MHZ	$54
128MB	16X64	266MHZ	$55
128MB	16X72	200MHZ	$59
128MB	16X72	266MHZ	$60
256MB	32X64	200MHZ	$107
256MB	32X64	266MHZ	$109
256MB	32X72	200MHZ	$112
256MB	32X72	266MHZ	$115

CORSAIR www.corsairmicro.com

PC100/133/150

CM654S64-BX2	64MB	8X64	8NS		$32
CM734S64-BX2	64MB	8X72	8NS		$43
CM654S128-BX2	128MB	16X64	8NS		$54
CM654S128-133	128MB PC133	16X64	7.5NS		$51
CM734S128-133	128MB PC133	16X72	7.5NS		$57
CM734S128-BX2	128MB	16X72	8NS		$67
CM654S128-133C2	128MB PC133	16X64 CAS2	7.5NS		$64
CM654S256-BX2	256MB	32X64	8NS		$92
CM654S256-133	256MB PC133	32X64	7.5NS		$87
CM724S256-133	256MB PC133	32X72	7.5NS		$102
CM654S256-133C2	256MB PC133	32X64 CAS2	7.5NS		$92
CM654S256-150C2	256MB PC150	32X64 CAS2	7NS		$95
CM724S256-BX2	256MB	32X72	8NS		$107
CM744S512-133	512MB PC133	64X72	7.5NS		$317
CM744S1024-133	1024MB PC133	128X72	7.5NS		$671

GX CHIPSETS

CM734S128-GX2	128MB	16X72	8NS	$67
CM724S256-GX2	256MB	32X72	8NS	$107

RAMBUS

CM618DR128-800	128MB	RDRAM	800MHZ	$122
CM618DR256-800	256MB	RDRAM	800MHZ	$259

VALUE SELECT MEMORY PC100/133

VS64MB100	64MB	8X64	8NS	$22
VS64MB133	64MB PC133	8X64	7.5NS	$22
VS128MB100	128MB	16X64	8NS	$36
VS128MB133	128MB PC133	16X64	7.5NS	$36
VS256MB100	256MB PC100	32X64	8NS	$67
VS256MB133	256MB PC133	32X64	7.5NS	$67
VS256REG133	256MB PC133	32X72	7.5NS	$102

DDR RAM PC2100

CM64SD128-2100	128MB	16X64 DDR	266MHZ	$64
CM64SD128-2400C2	128MB (CAS 2)	16X64 DDR	300MHZ	$74
CM64SD128-2100C2	128MB (CAS 2)	16X64 DDR	266MHZ	$87
CM64SD256-2100	256MB	32X64 DDR	266MHZ	$122
CM64SD256-2400C2	256MB (CAS 2)	16X64 DDR	300MHZ	$125
CM64SD256-2100C2	256MB (CAS 2)	32X64 DDR	266MHZ	$239
CM72SD128-2100	128MB	16X72 DDR	266MHZ	$76
CM72SD256-2100	256MB	32X72 DDR	266MHZ	$126
CM72SD256R-2100	256MB (REG)	32X72 DDR	266MHZ	$154
CM72SD512R-2100	512MB (REG)	64X72 DDR	266MHZ	$734

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DVD CDROM CDRW

TOSHIBA www.toshiba.com

MODEL#	SPEED/TRANS	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
TOSDM1402OEM	12X-40X DVD	ATAPI	135/90MS	256K	$62
TOSDM1502OEM	16X-48X DVD	ATAPI	115/95MS	256K	$67
TOSDR1002KIT	4X4X4X24	ATAPI	140/105MS	256K	$169
TOSDW2002KIT	6X-24XDVDRAM	ATAPI	120MS	8192K	$429

MITSUMI www.mitsumi.com

MODEL#	SPEED/TRANS	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
MIT48XIDE	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	128K	$33
MIT4804OEM	4X/4X/24X	ATAPI OEM	135MS	2048K	$77
MIT4805OEM	8X/4X/32X	ATAPI OEM	135MS	2048K	$87

YAMAHA www.yamaha.com

MODEL#	SPEED/TRANS	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
YACRW2100EZKIT	16X/10X/40X	ATAPI	140MS	4096K	$199
YACRW2200EZKIT	20X/10X/40X	ATAPI	160MS	8192K	$229
YACRW2100SZKIT	16X/10X/40X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	$262

SONY www.sony.com

SY48XIDE	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	128K	$35
SY52XIDE	52X/7800KB	ATAPI	85MS	128K	$38
SYCRX160E/CHOEM	12X/8X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	$112
SYCRX140ECHOEM	8X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	$119
SYCRX140E/CH	8X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	$122
SYCRX160E/CH	12X/8X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	$159
SYCRX145S/CH	10X/4X/32X	SCSI	150MS	4096K	$244

PLEXTOR www.plextor.com

PX-W8432TI	8X/4X/32X	ATAPI	160MS	4096K	$129
PX-W1210TA	12X/10X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	2048K	$189
PX-W1610TA	16X/10X/40X	ATAPI	150MS	2048K	$219
PX-W124TSI	12X/4X/32X	SCSI	160MS	4096K	$304

NOTEBOOK DRIVES

TOSHIBA www.toshiba.com

ALL TOSHIBA IDE NOTEBOOK DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 1YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
TO4313MAT	4300	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/8.4MM	$89
TO6015MAP	6000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$89
TO1016GAP	10000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$95
TO1214GAP	12000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$114
TO2016GAP	20000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$133
TO3017GAP	30000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$247

IBM www.ibm.com

ALL IBM IDE NOTEBOOK DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 1YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
IBMDJSA-210000	10000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/9.5MM	$92
IBMDJSA-220000	20000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/9.5MM	$124
IBMDJSA-230000	30000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/12.5MM	$299
IBMDJSA-232000	32000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/12.5MM	$369

MONITORS

ViewSonic www.viewsonic.com

VIE55	15"	.28DP	1280 X 1024	$139
VIE70	17"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$179
VIG70M	17"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$226
VIG70MB	17"	.27DP	1280 X 1024 (BLACK)	$226
VIE773	17"	.25DP	1280 X 1024	$227
VIGS773	17"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$244
VIPS775	17"	.25DP	1600 X 1280	$267
VIE90	19"	.27DP	1600 X 1200	$272
VIE95	19"	.26DP	1600 X 1200	$293
VIE790	19"	.26DP	1600 X 1200	$299
VIG90F	19"	.25DP	1600 X 1200 (FLAT)	$332
VIGS790	19"	.26DP	1600 X 1200	$334
VIG90M	19"	.26DP	1600 X 1200	$334
VIG90MB	19"	.26DP	1600 X 1200 (BLACK)	$334
VIPF790	19"	.25DP	1600 X 1280	$397
VIPS790	19"	.25DP	1600 X 1280	$489
VIP220F	22"	.25DP	1600 X 1200	$739
VIGS815	21"	.25DP	1920 X 1440	$754
VIP817	21"	.25DP	2048 X 1536	$1439
VIVE150	LCD MONITOR 15" VIEWABLE 1024 X 768			$467
VIVP150M	LCD MONITOR 15" VIEWABLE 1024 X 768			$749
VIVG175	LCD MONITOR 17.4" VIEWABLE 1280 X 1024			$1270
VIVG181	LCD MONITOR 18.1" VIEWABLE 1280 X 1024			$1729

RELYSIS www.relysis.com

RETE555	15"	.28DP	1280 X 1024	$122
RETE770	17"	.28DP	1280 X 1024	$167
RETE786T	17"	.26DP	1280 X 1024	$168
RETE786H	17"	.25DP	1600 X 1200	$182
RETE988	19"	.26DP	1600 X 1200	$244
RETL500A	LCD MONITOR 15" VIEWABLE 1024 X 768			*$419*
RETL700A	LCD MONITOR 17" VIEWABLE 1280 X 1024			$839

IDE HARD DRIVES

WESTERN DIGITAL www.wdc.com

ALL WESTERN DIGITAL IDE DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 3YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
WD200EB	20000	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$80
WD200AB	20500	8.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$80
WD200BB	20000	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$92
WD400AB	40000	8.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$107
WD300BB	30000	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$114
WD400BB	40000	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$129
WD600AB	60000	8.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$151
WD800AB	80000	8.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$202
WD600BB	60000	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$212
WD800BB	80000	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$259

IBM www.ibm.com

ALL IBM IDE DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 3YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
IBM307015	15000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$95
IBM305040	40000	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$102
IBM35L020	20000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$102
IBM307030	30000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$129
IBM35L040	40000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$147
IBM35L060	60000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$204
IBM307075	75000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$259
IBM35L075	75000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$259

Maxtor www.maxtor.com

ALL MAXTOR IDE DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 3YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
MAX204-5400	20400	9.5 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$81
MAX153-7200	15300	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$88
MAX307-5400	30700	9.5 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$92
MAX204-7200	20400	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$97
MAX409-5400	40900	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$104
MAX307-7200	30700	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$117
MAX409-7200	40900	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$134
MAX614-5400	61400	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$152
MAX614-7200	61400	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$194
MAX819-5400	81900	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$219

CONTROLLERS

PROMISE TECHNOLOGY, INC. www.promisetechnology.com

PRULTRA66	ULTRA ATA66 PCI 4 HARD DRIVE	$24
PRULTRA100	ULTRA ATA100 PCI 4 HARD DRIVE	$49
PRFASTRAK100	ULTRA ATA100 RAID PCI	$82

adaptec www.adaptec.com

AD2940AUOEM	ULTRA SCSI BUS MSTR 20MB/SEC OEM	$151
AD2940UWPROOEM	ULTRA 2 PCI 80MB/SEC OEM	$184
AD29160OEM	ULTRA 2 PCI BUS MSTR 160MB/SEC OEM	$195
AD19160KIT	ULTRA 2 PCI BUS MSTR 160MB/SEC RETAIL	$214
AD2940U2WOEM	ULTRA 2 PCI BUS MSTR 80MB/SEC OEM	$219
AD29160KIT	ULTRA 2 PCI BUS MSTR 160MB/SEC RETAIL	$283

SCSI HARD DRIVES

WESTERN DIGITAL www.wdc.com

ALL WESTERN DIGITAL SCSI DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 5YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
WD91FG	9100	6.6MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$127
WDE9150-0050	9100	5.2MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$132
WDE18310-0040	18300	5.2MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$227
WDE18310-0050	18300	5.2MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$232

Seagate www.seagate.com

ALL SEAGATE SCSI DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 5YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
ST39236LW	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$207
ST39216N	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$212
ST39216W	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$212
ST39236LWV	9200	5.8MS/7200	4096K	3.5"/1"H	$227
ST318416N	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$297
ST318416W	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$297
ST318436LW	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$297
ST318436LWV	18400	5.8MS/7200	4096K	3.5"/1"H	$307
ST318404LW	18400	5.2MS/10,000	4096K	3.5"/FH	$309
ST318451LW	18400	5.2MS/15,000	4096K	3.5"/FH	$439
ST336704LW	36700	5.2MS/10,000	4096K	3.5"/FH	$474
ST336704LWV	36700	5.2MS/10,000	16000K	3.5"/FH	$474
ST173404LW	73400	5.6MS/10,000	4096K	3.5"/FH	$889
ST173404LWV	73400	5.6MS/10,000	16000K	3.5"/FH	$914
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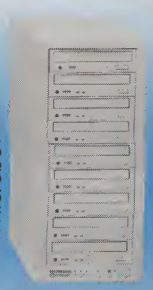
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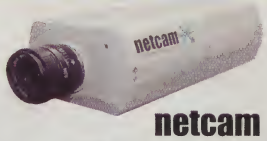
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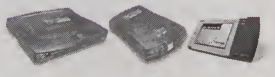
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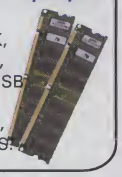
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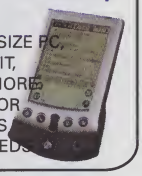
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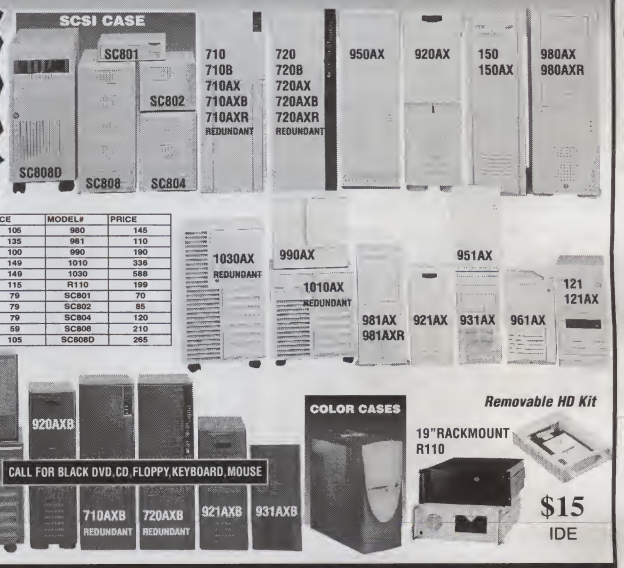


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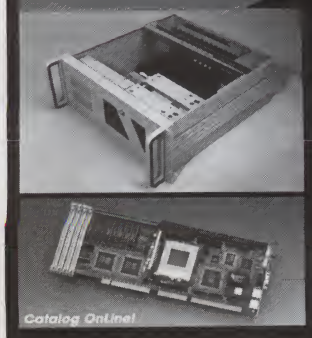
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Deluxe Xeon Server



*Supermicro S2DL3,Dual Xeon
*ServerWorkLEchip,10~133FSB
*512MB/ECC/Reg(upto4GB)
*Adaptec7892Ultra-160,LVD
*18GB,10Krpm,Ultra-160MB
*12~24GB,DDS-3SCSITapedrive
*100MB IDE Zip,1.44MB floppy
*Sony48xIDECD-Rom
*3D4MBAGPVideocard
*IntelExpressProPCI10/100BT
*SupermicroS760AFull-Tower/300W
*MS-Mouse&104keysKeyboard
DualXeon-450-512K.....$3129
DualXeon-550-512K.....$4189
DualXeon-700-1M2M....$4499/$5969
DualXeon-933-256K.....$Call

4U Linux Raid 5 Server



*370DLE,DualFCPGACPUReady
*ServerWorkLEchip,100~133FSB
*256MB/ECC/Reg,(upto4GB)
***AD2100S,160MB RaidCard**
***3x9GB/160MB,Raid5Ready**
*48xSpeedIDECD-ROM
*4MPCIVGA,1.44floppydrive
*Integrated10~100BTLan
***4U/19"Rackmount,6x5.25"Bays**
*MS-Mouse&104keysKeyboard
DualP3-650E/667EB.....$2199/$2209
DualP3-700E/733EB.....$2219/$2229
DualP3-750E/800EB.....$2239/$2329
DualP3-850E/866EB.....$2329/$2349
DualP3-933EB/1000EB..$2369/$2449

2U Web Server



*SupermicroP6DGU,Intel440GX
*DualCPU,128MB/100Mhz
*Adaptec7890,U2,80MB/sec
***9GBU2/LVD,80MB/S,W/S3**
*48xSpeedIDECD-ROM
*4MPCIVGA,1.44floppydrive
*IntelExpressProPCI10/100BT
***2U/19"Rackmount,w/250WATX**
*3xPCIRisercard
*MS-Mouse&104keysKeyboard
DualP3-600E/650E.....$1319/$1329
DualP3-700E/750E.....$1359/$1379
DualP3-800E/850E.....$1439/$1489
MS-Windows2000Pro.....$175
UpgradetoIntelL440GX.....+$79

1U Web Server

***Intel815EALw/CPU&Fan**
*Intel815chipset,66/100/133FSB
*128MBSdram(upto512MB)
*20GB,9ms,7200rpmATA/100MB
*Integrated4xAGPVGA
*Integrated10~100BTLan&Audio
*1URisercardfor2ndLancard
*48xSpeedIDECD-Rom
*31/2"1.44MBfloppydrive
*PS/2104keyboard&MS-Mouse
***Black1U/19"Rackmount,200W**
IntelP3-650E/667B.....$739/$749
IntelP3-700E/733B.....$759/$769
IntelP3-750E/800B.....$779/$819
IntelP3-850E/866B.....$819/$829
IntelP3-933B/1000B.....$849/$879

1U SCSI Server

***370SSR,815chip,100/133MhzFSB**
*370FCPGACPUw/Fan
*128MBSdram(upto512MB)
*9GBU2/LVD,160MB/sec
*Adaptec7899,LVD,160MB/sec
*2xUltraATA/100MBIDE
*Integrated4xAGPVGA
*2xIntegrated10~100BTLan&Audio
*1URisercardfor2ndLancard
*48xSpeedCD-Rom,1.44MBfloppy
*PS/2104keyboard&MS-Mouse
***Black1U/19"Rackmount,200W**
P3-650E/667B.....$1139/$1149
P3-700E/733B.....$1159/$1169
P3-750E/800B.....$1179/$1219
P3-850E/866B.....$1219/$1229
P3-933B/1000B.....$1239/$1279

1U/2U Dual Web Server

***370DLR,DualP3FCPGACPUReady**
*ServerWorkLEchip,100~133FSB
*256MB/ECC/Reg(upto4GB)
*9GB,6ms,7200rpm,160MBSCSI
*Integrated Adaptec7892,Ultra-160
*Integrated2x10~100BTLan
*IntegratedPCIVGA,8M
*48xSpeedIDECD-Rom
*3.5"1.44MBfloppydrive
*PS/2104keyboard&MS-Mouse
***Black1UOr2U/19"Rackmount**
DualP3-650E/667B.....$1619/$1629
DualP3-700E/733B.....$1639/$1649
DualP3-750E/800B.....$1659/$1749
DualP3-850E/866B.....$1749/$1779
DualP3-933B/1000B.....$1799/$1869

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***128MB RambusMemory**
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*ATIRadeon64MBDDR,4xAGP
*Soundblaster Live soundcard
*USR56K/V.90Modem w/voice
*52xSpeedIDECD-Rom
*3.5"1.44MBfloppydrive
*IOMEGA250MBIDEzipdrive
*MS-NaturalKeyboard&Mouse
*Mid-Towercasew/300WP.S
*MS-Windows2KProfessional
Pentium4-1.3Ghz.....$1559
Pentium4-1.4Ghz.....$1579
Pentium4-1.5Ghz.....$1659
Pentium4-1.7Ghz.....$1769

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All-In-W-Rdeon,AGP,32MB,ATP.....$239
Radeon,AGP,32/64MB.....$155/$195
All-In-W128P,16/32MB,AGP...$129/$159
MatroxG450D16/32MB,AGP....$89/$115
Oxygen VX1,32MB,4xAGP.....$155
Oxygen-GVX1,AGP,32MB.....$449
Oxygen-GVX1Pro,AGP,64MB.....$675
Oxygen-GVX210,AGP,64MB.....$1179
Oxygen-GVX420,AGP,64MB.....$1685
ELSA Synergy Force,AGP,32M....$225
Elsa Gladiac,GeForce2,AGP,64M..$299
Elsa Synerg-III,Quadro,2MXR.....$439
Elsa Gloria-III,Quadro2Pro,64M....$965
Asus V7700Pure/Deluxe,64M..$259/$295
Asus V7700Pure/Deluxe,32M..$179/$219
Asus V7100,GeForce2,32MB.....$125
Jaton, Nvidia GeForce2, AGP,32M....$99

Tape Backup

HP-C4406,14GB,TR4,IDE.....$285
HP-C4446,10/20GB,TR5IDE.....$289
HP-C1554,4mmDat,12/24GBSCSI..$745
HP-C1599,4mmDat,4/8GBSCSI....$545
HP DLT-1E,80GB w/Ext & Tape....$1675
Seagate Tape Drive:
STT28000A,4/8GBTR4,IDE.....$225
STT28000N,4/8GBTR4,SCSI.....$279
STT22000A,10/20GB,TR5IDE.....$305
STT22000N,10/20GB,TR5,SCSI...$355
STD224000N12/24GB,DDS-2,SCSI..$559
STD2401LW,20/40GB,DDS4Dat...$1019
Quantum Tape Drive:
DLT4000,10/20GB,Int/Ext.....$669/$789
DLT7000,20/40GB,Int/Ext.....$2455/$2575
DLT8000,35/70GB,Int/Ext.....$2655/$2775

CD-Rom Drives

Yamaha,16x10x40 SCSI CD-RW....$279
HP-9140i,8x4x32,IDE Rewriter.....$159
HP-9500i,12x8x32 IDE Rewriter.....$199
Teac-512E,12x10x32IDERewriter...$179
Plextor,16x10x40IDECDRewriter...$235

SONY

E210,17",1600x1200,.24dpi,60Khz....$339
G400,19",1600x1280,.24dpi.....$535
E400,19",1800x1440,.24,109K.....$489

NEC

AS75F,17",1280x1024,.25,Flat.....$245
AS95F,19",1600x100,.25,Flat.....$355
FP950,19",1920x1440,.25,110K.....$539

HITACHI

CM615U,17",1280x1024,.22,69K..$215
CM771U,19",1600x1200,22,107K...$425
CM811+,21",1600x1200,.22,96K..$829
CM813+,21",1920x1440,.22,75K....$879

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E790,19"1600x1280,.26dpi,95K....$355
G81021"1600x1280,.25dpi,89K....$659
GS815,21"1920x1440k,25dpi.....$789

Mitsubishi

DS-70,17",1280x1024,.28dpi,70K.....$249
DP-73,17",1280x1024,.25dpi,70k.....$269
DP91,19",1200x1024,.25dpi,85K.....$475
DP-900U,19",1600x1200,Flat,95K....$675
DP2060,22"2048x1536,4dpi,Flat.....$965

MAG

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800V,19"1600x1200,.26dpi,95K.....$339
XJ910,21"1600x1200,.28dpi,110K..$825

Hard Drives

IBM-307020,20GB,7200rpm,100MB.....$125
IBM-307030,30GB,7200rpm,100MB.....$145
IBM-307045,45GB,7200rpm,100MB.....$179
IBM-307060,60GB,7200rpm,100MB.....$235
IBM-307075,75GB,7200rpm,100MB.....$289
IBM-109170LW,9GB,10Krpm/160MB...$199
IBM-18350LW,18GB,10Krpm/160MB.....$249
IBM-36950LW,36GB,10Krpm,160MB.....$425
Maxtor5T030H3,30GB,7200rpm.....$135
Maxtor5T040H4,40GB,7200rpm.....$155
Maxtor5T060H6,61GB,7200rpm.....$219
Maxtor98196H8,81GB,5400rpm.....$255
WD307AA,30GB,7200rpm,100MB.....$135
WD400BB,40GB,7200rpm,100MB.....$145
WD600AB,60GB,5400rpm,100MB.....$179
Qunatum-4000A,40GB,7200rpm.....$159
Quantum-6000A, 60GB,7200rpm.....$225
Quantum-309100LW,9GB,7200rpm/160M...$195
Quantum-309100TN,9GB,10Krpm/160M..$199
Quantum-318300LW,18GB,7200rpm/160....$255
Quantum-318400LW,18GB,10Krpm.....$265
Quantum-336400LW,36GB,7200rpm/160....$419
Quantum-336400TN,36GB,10Krpm/160...$475
Quantum-373400LW,73GB,10Krpm.....$895
Seagate-320414,20GB,7200rpm.....$115
Seagate-330630,30GB,7200rpm.....$129
Seagate-39205LW,9GB,10Krpm/160MB...$225
Seagate-318346LW,18GB,7200rpm/160.....$269
Seagate-318405LW,18GB,10Krpm/160....$285
Seagate-318451LW,18GB,15Krpm.....$389
Seagate-336705LW,36GB,10Krpm/160....$499
Seagate-173405LW,73GB,10Krpm/160.....$925
Seagate-1181677,181GB,7200rpm....$1855
Seagate-1181677V,181GB,16M.....$1925

Intel Book PC-II



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*MS-Windows**98**"(Installed&licensed)
Celeron-600/700/800.....$459/$479/$519
P3--667/750/800.....$529/$539/$579
P3-866/933/1G.....$589/$599/$629
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P3-866/933/1G.....$589/$599/$629
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CHECKING Out

EDITED BY KIERSTEN CONNER-SAX



ILLUSTRATION BY ISMAEL ROLDAN

"YOU KNOW, IT'S REALLY COOL BECAUSE YOU HAVE MY FRIENDS AT HOME AND, LIKE, WHEN I NEED TO TALK TO THEM WE STAY ON THE COMPUTER FOREVER AND SHE'S TALKING TO ME AND I'M TALKING AND YOU CAN JUST, YOU KNOW, CATCH UP ON ALL THE OLD STUFF. BECAUSE I'M NEVER HOME AND I NEVER REALLY GET TO EXPERIENCE TALKING ON THE PHONE WITH MY FRIENDS THAT MUCH BECAUSE OF THE PHONE BILL AND EVERYTHING. SO AOL IS AWESOME."

—Britney Spears,

when asked whether she liked chatting on AOL

AIBO BREED FAQ

Owning a pet is a big responsibility, so when we started thinking about buying an AIBO, we decided to consult the breed FAQ at ***rec.pets.dogs.*** Strangely, there was no FAQ for AIBO, so we had to make one up.

1. Table of Contents
   - **1.1 Characteristics and Temperament**
   - **1.2 Breed History**
   - **1.3 Why an AIBO?**

1.1 Characteristics and Temperament

The AIBO is a happy, bold, metallic breed. AIBOs are energetic, show a fondness for expensive electronic equipment, and are extremely loyal unless reset. The breed standard is quite rigid: Virtually every AIBO is 10.79 inches long and weighs 3.3 pounds.

1.2 Breed History

AIBOs originated in Japan, though their lineage may be traced, in part, to Furbys found in Vernon Hills, Ill. The dogs were first noted on the Sony campus in 1999. And though the breeds appear to be similar, AIBO breeders insist that the Poo-Chi and Mega Byte lines are not descendants of the AIBO.

1.3 Why an AIBO?

Bred to accommodate owners who want to control virtually everything in their lives, including nonhuman companionship, the AIBO is the perfect breed for those who want a dog, yet also want to completely ignore its needs. The AIBO provides simulated loving companionship, and its plastic body prevents both shedding and the uncomfortable warmth of another living being. Though an expensive breed, owners avoid veterinary bills, pet-food costs, and true emotional attachments.



PARTY IN THE HOUSE

Maxis' new add-on to its popular computer game The Sims lets you turn your characters' lives from futile to fabulous. What if a few other companies released House Party-themed expansion packs?

	The Sims: House Party Expansion Pack	Microsoft House Party .Net	AOL Time Warner House Party	Quicken House Party
What's There?	Enhances The Sims, allowing simulated people to throw wild parties, rather than merely going to work, fixing meals, and talking on the phone. Also allows them to get drunk.	Where do you want to party today? Install House Party .Net, and receive a full dossier on your guests as soon as they walk in the door.	"You've got a party!" And not just any party, but a party with synergistic opportunities galore. How else could you get Steve Case, Ted Turner, and Dawson and Pacey together in one room?	Turns planning your financial future into one big party. Tracking your 401(k) is now a laugh a minute.
Who's Playing?	Control freaks	Steve Ballmer	Steve Case, Ted Turner, and Dawson and Pacey	Alan Greenspan
Cool Extras	Punch bowl, mechanical bull, tiki torches, mime	Two-way mirror	Michigan J. Frog	Money
Likely Quote	"Mime is money!"	"Party like it's 1984!"	"Anti-trust, anti-shmust."	"The NASDAQ seems to have bottomed out."



intel inside
pentium® III



CORPORATE LOOK. CASUAL PRICE.



Dell™ Rated #1 in Desktop Satisfaction, 14th Consecutive Quarter
Technology Business Research Corporate IT Buying Behavior and Customer Satisfaction Study
– 4th Quarter 2000, March 21, 2001

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– 4th Quarter 2000, March 21, 2001

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- Internal 3Com® 10/100 Ethernet Controller
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